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Issue No 126

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



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EATING OUT GUIDE INSIDE**

## CALL CENTRE CLOSURE COULD COST 128 JOBS

### WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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Chief Constable Mike Fuller is leaving as head of Kent Police after six years. Search 'Fuller'

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ISSN 1753-117-9



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### GEARED UP FOR ADVENTURE

The former police training college Grosvenor Hall is being transformed into an activity centre for visiting school groups.

Work has nearly finished on building the giant climbing frame, zip wire and abseiling towers that will provide some of the adventurous activities for visiting pupils.

The attraction is due to open next month hopes to entice students from Europe as well as south east England.

■ BY ED HILL

ALLIANCE & Leicester has said it is closing its call centre at Charter House putting 128 jobs at risk.

It means that one of the last major employers to use the Charter House, which dominates the Ashford skyline, has now pulled out of the building.

The nine-story block currently advertises itself as having the cheapest offices available in Ashford.

Alliance's new owner, Spanish Bank Santander, says it wants to concentrate operations in the north of the country.

Unions at the company had hoped to persuade management that a new long-term contract could be signed that would keep the Charter House site open. The company first suggested it might be pulling out of Ashford just over a year ago.

Nigel Cotgrove from the Communication Workers Union said: "This is a bitter blow to our hard-working members who are among the best performing staff in the whole Bank. This news is all the more disappointing given the impressive profits achieved by Santander UK."

The contact centre deals with current accounts and savings calls for Alliance & Leicester customers. It was opened in 1985 but will now close in June.

Mr Cotgrove said: "We have urged Santander to use our skilled members as the core of a new long-term contact centre in Ashford. However, we have been unable to convince the bank to reverse its decision."

"We are now focusing on options to keep as  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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### TOP TV CLIPS



**1** Home Secretary Alan Johnson visits Dover to see how community action is making a difference. **Search 'Johnson'**



**2** Kent International Airport chiefs announce new Manston to Edinburgh summer flights. **Search 'Thanet'**



**3** Hypnotherapist Mandy Shephard puts yourkenttv's Julie Maddocks on the couch. **Search 'hypnotherapy'**

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**KEEP IT GREEN:** Kennington residents are campaigning to keep new homes off grassed area

# Don't build on our patch, say campaigners

■ BY ED HILL

AN ESTATE in Kennington is fighting to safeguard its 'village green' once and for all against future housing development.

Residents living around Bybrook Road have made an application to Kent County Council to give the grassed area on the corner of Beechholme Drive and Grasmere Road village green status so it cannot be built on, after Ashford council proposed building an eco homes development on the site in 2008.

## Evidence

The hearing was held at Kennington United Reformed Church in Faversham Road in front of an independent planning inspector.

Local people gave evidence as to why they felt the land should become a village green.

Resident Evelyn Morrison said: "Where I live I have a good view of this patch of ground. On Sunday there were 15 children there playing and enjoying themselves.

"The smaller children like to play football there. They bring and take away their own set of goal posts every night. When we had the snow they were building snowmen. I have never had any trouble with them."

She also denied claims made by

those wanting to build the eco homes scheme that abandoned cars and rubbish caused problems at the site.

She said: "I hope we can keep it a green space because there are so many things that could be done with it."

Hyde Housing Association put in a planning application to build 19 eco homes on the site designed to use the latest sustainable technology to minimise their impact on the environment.

It had hoped to start building the project last year but the application to give the land village green status has delayed the project.

William Clarke, another resident, said the ground was one of the few places where children could play safely in the area.

He said: "I have lived in this area for 30 years and that ground has always been used for recreational use. It is the piece of land near the blocks of flats where people naturally congregate."

Ashford council's legal representatives then gave evidence as to why they felt the village green application should be rejected.

Planning Inspector, Lana Wood, explained that she would not determine the outcome of the application.

She said: "After I have heard the evidence I will write a report for the KCC planning committee to consider and also advise on any legal matters that may arise. They may reject my recommendations."

## Staff to be offered relocation to other jobs or redundancy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

many people in jobs as possible through redeployment or relocation to other jobs in Santander."

A voluntary redundancy scheme has also been launched for employees.

A spokesman from Alliance and Leicester said: "Carlton Park in Leicester and Bootle in Merseyside are strategically important sites for us in the UK and as such ones that will be a focus for the consolidation of our operations."

"All staff will be offered relocation or redeployment to other roles in the region where Santander has approximately 90 vacancies in the South East."

## Uncertainty

"This decision may lead to a number of redundancies where staff, do not wish to relocate and redeployment is not found, although it is hoped these will be voluntary."

"There is never a good time to announce changes such as this and we are acutely aware of the uncertainty staff are facing."

"We would thank them for their continued professionalism and co-operation."

Dukelease Properties, the company that owns and manages Charter House, refused to comment.

## Eurostar passengers left in the dark again

SEVEN hundred passengers were left in darkness for two hours following the breakdown of a Eurostar train near Ashford.

The Paris to London service came to a halt at about 10.45pm on Sunday and was stuck for nearly two hours.

A second Eurostar train was used to collect the stranded passengers.

About 100 travellers left the train at Ashford, with the rest continuing their journey onto London. It finally arrived at 2.35am the next morning.

The incident, described by Eurostar as a major technical fault, is the latest in a series of reliability problems that have plagued the train operator.

A recent independent report blamed poor maintenance for six trains breaking down in Channel Tunnel just before Christmas. Because of mistakes in servicing the trains were vulnerable to failing in icy weather.

The company has apologised to passengers for the latest breakdown and says it is carrying out an investigation into the incident.

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# Lying driver caught on speed cam fined £800

■ BY ED HILL

A DRIVER facing a £60 fine ended up with a bill of more than £800 after persistently denying she was at the wheel when the car was caught speeding.

Susan Marion Toms, 59, from Willesborough, even surprised her own defence council when she suddenly pleaded guilty after weeks of maintaining that someone else had been driving her Suzuki Wagon R.

On May 8 last year, Mrs Toms' car was snapped by a speed camera at The Esplanade, Sandgate, near Folkestone travelling 38mph in a 30mph zone.

She got a letter asking for details of whoever was driving at the time, and wrote back saying she did not know who was driving her car.

## Investigations

Mrs Toms' also claimed her car keys had gone missing on May 4, and suggested the two events were linked. The loss of her keys was not reported to police until May 18.

She stated she was at work in Ashford at the time the car was being driven along the esplanade, which her employer also confirmed.

Officers from the enquiry team at The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership carried out further investigations to clarify Mrs Toms' version of events, and she was interviewed under caution at Ashford Police Station.

Mrs Toms refused to answer any of the questions put to her by police and was summoned to appear before magistrates. At her preliminary

hearings she still maintained her innocence.

However, when she appeared in court on Friday charged with failing to supply driver details, she changed her plea to guilty.

Mr Keith Betts, defending Mrs Toms, was surprised at her sudden change of mind and could offer no explanation to the court for her sudden guilty plea.

In mitigation he stated she was of previous good character and had a clean driving licence.

Because of continued denial of being involved in the incident and the time taken up by the case she was fined £800 plus a £15 victim surcharge.

She was also given six penalty points on her licence.

PC Russell-Thomas from the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership said: "We have an enquiry team working behind the scenes on these cases where people are being deliberately evasive, fraudulent or failing to supply driver details."

"Drivers still think they can beat the system, however this, and many other, court cases demonstrate the seriousness of the offence and often result in more severe penalties."



**CAUGHT ON CAMERA:** Susan Marion Toms told cops her keys were lost and she was at work. The lie cost her £800 when she finally confessed in court it was her

Speed cam spokesman Katherine Barrett, added: "Safety cameras are installed where there is a history of serious speed-related crashes."

"The Truvelo camera on the Esplanade in Sandgate was installed in 2003 because there had been four people killed or seriously injured along that stretch of road."

"We just want people to slow down so that fewer casualties happen."

## Boyfriend's snow antics cost driver

A DRIVER who allowed her boyfriend to perform skids on a snow-covered car park has been given six points on her licence.

Ashford magistrates heard that Katie Bounds, 20, from South Ashford stood by as she watched Christopher Noble perform the stunts in icy conditions at the Tannery Lane car park near the Stour Centre late at night.

Mr Noble is currently suspended from driving. By letting him get behind the wheel Miss Bounds had aided and abetted Mr Noble into an illegal act.

Miss Bound's defence lawyer told the court the couple had been unaware they were breaking the law. It was late and there was no danger to other road users. He said if she had known it was illegal she would not have allowed him to drive.

Both Miss Bounds and Mr Noble pleaded guilty to the charges.

She was given a given a conditional discharge of six months, six points on her licence and told to pay £85 costs.

## Star to resurface in county at folk club

A FORMER submariner-turned international folk star will be appearing at Tenterden Folk club next month.

Tom Lewis from British Columbia has more than 40 years experience entertaining fans with his songs from sea-going and folk-singing communities.

Originally from Belfast, Mr Lewis is a former submariner based in Chatham. He moved to Canada in 1983 and is now considered one of North America's leading exponents of traditional music.

The concert takes place at the White Lion pub on March 19. Tickets £7 on the door or £6 in advance from Tenterden Folk Festival at info@tenterdenfolk festival.org.uk or call 01233 626805.

## Tragic death of man on rail line

A MAN has been killed after being hit by a train at Wye.

The 44-year-old, who is thought to have been from the village, was pronounced dead on the scene by ambulance services on Saturday morning.

A police spokesman said: "An investigation has been launched to establish the full circumstances surrounding the incident and anyone with any information about is asked to contact the police."

The railway line was reopened at 11.55am.

Witnesses are asked to call British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 quoting reference 91 of 20/02/10.

## Police get whiff of cannabis den

POLICE have found a large amount of cannabis being grown at a house in Boughton Lees.

They were tipped off after a call to Crimestoppers regarding the smell that was coming from the property.

The Neighbourhood Police Team executed a warrant under the misuse of drugs act at the address in Faversham Road on last Wednesday.

A 36-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of cultivation of cannabis and were released on bail pending further investigations until April 30.

# Stack problems to be addressed at County Hall

TRAVEL disruption in the run up to Christmas has prompted Kent County Council to discuss Operation Stack.

Cllr Nick Chard, cabinet member for highways, has asked for a meeting to be held with Kent Police, the Highways Agency, Dover council, Eurotunnel, Dover Harbour Board and ferry operators.

Cllr Chard said: "The problems occurring in the week before Christmas when the port of Calais and Eurotunnel were closed have highlighted the need for a new contingency plan when large numbers of lorries and passenger cars are caught up in Operation Stack."

Meanwhile the council's preferred solution of building a lorry park between junctions 10 and 11 of M20 near Aldington is undergoing an environmental assessment.

Given the economic climate and the prospect of all local authorities having to reduce spending, finding the funds to build the 2,500 space park looks increasingly difficult.

Cllr Chard said: "Operation Stack is such an important issue for the people of Kent. We need to have concerted action."

Ronald Lello from the Sellindge and District Residents' Association said: "Imagine pouring millions of tons of concrete all over the land between Aldington and Sellindge just to accommodate lorries on the few days there are problems on the ferries."

"There are 7,500 HGVs going in and out of Dover each day and by the time the park is built this is expected to rise to 13,000 and probably more. What use then for a park which will not have enough space even for one day."



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## yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

### Celebrate your survival, chamber urges members

BUSINESS people in Ashford and Canterbury are being urged to enter this year's Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce business awards.

Jo James of the chamber said: "Many members have said the last 12 months have not been to good due to the recession and they are not sure whether to enter."

"My response is: the fact you have survived and are still in business is very positive. Why not give yourself the opportunity to gain valuable publicity and recognition?"

Categories include: Business of the Year, Most Promising New Business, Excellence In People Development, Customer Service and Entrepreneur of the Year.

The closing date for entries is March 1 and the ceremony will be held at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on March 24.

Email maxine@kentinvictachamber.co.uk or call 01233 503838 for more details.

### Scott rallies the faithful

BARONESS Ros Scott of the Liberal Democrats visited Ashford to speak at the local party's annual dinner, held in the Downtown Diner, last week.

The party's president told her audience to "expect some surprises" on election night.

In a speech lasting more than 40 minutes, Baroness Scott told how she became involved in politics, first locally and then nationally, and how former Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy advised her in 2001 that she wouldn't be in the House of Lords for long as Labour would abolish it. Ten years later she's still there.

The Lib Dems hope to make headway at this year's general election because of boundary changes in Ashford.

### New forum for elderly?

HELP the Aged and Concern and Community Action South and East Kent (CASE) want older people in the town to join a forum.

The groups want to give the over-50s a place where they can discuss the issues that matter to them most.

A meeting is being held at Centrepiece in Bank Street tomorrow (Thursday) to see if the idea has a long-term future in the town.

The meeting starts at 10am. A free lunch will be included but organisers say you must contact them first to say you will be attending. Some help with transport is available.

Email sarahporter@casekent.org.uk or call 01233 646536 for more information.

# Gateway Plus work will begin in April

■ BY ED HILL

WORK is expected to start on Ashford's new Gateway Plus centre in April.

The £7.5 million centre – to be built on the site of the library in Church Road – will combine a traditional library role with providing council and other services.

Ashford was the first town in Kent to have a Gateway centre, at Park Mall, and the new building will be the biggest in the county.

The centre will house county and borough council services, voluntary organisations, social services, and a register office, all under one roof.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for community services, Cllr Mike Hill, said: "By gathering regular council services with a new library and register office, among others, we can improve the way we provide services in Ashford."

KCC has also revealed that Gateway Plus will include enough space for dance and art classes and a cafe which could be run along social enterprise lines.

Contractors Morgan Ashhurst aim to move onto the site at the end of April and the building is expected to be ready in about 12 months.

Library services will move next to the Gateway, in Park Mall, while construction takes place. Community artwork at the old library will be conserved and some will be



ICONIC FUTURE: Artist's depiction of how Ashford's new Gateway Plus centre will look

incorporated in the new building.

Architects Burns Guthrie also hope the building will provide a venue for marriage ceremonies, with nearby Memorial Gardens offering a picturesque setting for wedding photos.

Voluntary sector will be available throughout the building, which will also include internet access. It will also include specialist facilities for people with complex physical needs and

their carers. Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future, which is contributing £2m to the Gateway Plus, said: "We are delighted to be part of an exciting project that will not only bring new and improved public services to the people of Ashford, but will also create an iconic and inspiring building in the town centre."

"These facilities will be a great asset to Ashford as it continues to grow."

## Salon staff delighted by skincare accolade



A BEAUTY salon and spa at Eastwell Manor, near Ashford, has picked up a top award.

Dreams was presented with Crown Salon status at the Guinot skincare awards in London.

To win the award, the salon had to meet stringent criteria in treatments and customer care. It was also runner-up in the best overall salon competition, which covers the UK and Ireland. The ceremony was held at the Landmark Hotel, Marylebone. French company

Guinot has been involved in professional skincare for more than 40 years.

Dreams has 15 qualified beauty therapists who carry out a range of face and body treatments, including the Hydradermie, a complete facial treatment using galvanic and high-frequency electric currents.

Helen Parrett of Eastwell Manor said: "The spa, its beautiful surroundings and our fantastic team provide the perfect way to unwind and revitalise body and mind."

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**CULTIVATED:** A meeting has been called to address the shortage of allotments in Great Chart and Singleton

# Brigade on the march in search for land to till

A SCARCITY of allotments and the growing taste for homegrown food has spurred green-fingered householders into action.

Residents in Great Chart and Singleton have formed the Barrow and Spade Brigade to find space for community-run allotments.

Alisa Yingling, chair of the group, said: "There is a growing awareness of where our food comes from and many people don't feel right about shipping it from around the world, especially when they live in the Garden of England."

"Nothing is as gratifying as planting a little seedling and tasting the incredible flavours that come from your own runner beans and potatoes."

The group formed last summer and already has a long waiting list of those who would like to till their own patch of ground.

Member Sonata Winchester said: "First we looked into getting people on waiting lists and now are looking for a spot of land. We've had tremendous support from the community."

Allotments are becoming increasingly popular but finding new sites is difficult. Ashford

■ BY ED HILL

council's own sites already have a huge waiting list – a problem common in the UK.

Ms Winchester said: "We still haven't got a site because it's quite an involved process. We first have to identify potential plots that are not about to be developed and are not used for agriculture."

"Then we have to approach the owners to see if they would be happy to lease the land."

The group is holding a meeting today (Wednesday) to discuss the idea with interested parties and to invite more people to take part.

Homegrown produce will be available so people can see what can be achieved by DIY horticulture.

Ms Winchester said: "We'd obviously like a big enough piece of land to meet the needs of the community, but would be grateful for whatever we can get. We want to get the word out that our community has this need."

The Barrow and Spade Brigade will be meeting at Great Chart village hall tonight from 7.30pm. For more information about Great Chart and Singleton community allotments, call 01233 884 908.

## Recognise this face? Give police his name

POLICE have issued this efit of a man who attacked an Ashford cabbie. The assault took place on January 17, half an hour after midnight.

The assailant took a taxi with a woman from the centre of Ashford to the Arcon Road bus stop, Beaver Lane.

When they arrived the man refused to pay and after an altercation hit the cabbie and smashed his mobile phone.

The attacker is white, aged 25 to 27, 6ft 1in, of slim build, with short brown hair. He was wearing a T-shirt and jacket. Call the police on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 if you can help.



yourashford

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Having a say on spending

ASHFORD council has announced when it will be holding public consultations to discuss future spending.

Chief executive John Bunnett says the council faces tough times ahead and has proposed a five-year business plan.

He said: "We want people to tell us what services are important to them. We want to know if there are services you would be prepared to pay extra for and services you don't rate as a priority."

Let the council know what you think by completing an online survey or filling in a form in the spring edition of Ashford Voice. Copies are available at the Civic Centre and Tenterden Gateway.

Roadshows are being held at Asda, tomorrow (Thursday); County Square on March 1 and 2; Tenterden Tesco on March 3 and 4; Tesco Park Farm on March 8 and 9; and Sainsbury's on March 10 and 11.

## Ladies in the moonlight

IF YOU enjoy moonlit walks on balmy nights, why not try doing one for charity?

Pilgrims Hospices has launched its new programme of women-only moonlight walks so participants can have fun, raise money and perhaps remember a loved one.

This year there are three routes – Deal on June 5; Ashford on June 26; and between Herne Bay and Whitstable on September 18.

Females from the age of 12 can take part. Fundraising manager Deborah Kellond said: "Last year 1,500 walkers raised £170,000. This year we hope to reach our target of 3,500 walkers raising £350,000."

For more details, visit [www.pilgrimsmoonlightwalk.org](http://www.pilgrimsmoonlightwalk.org) or call 01227 782 062.

## MMR appeal to parents

PARENTS are being urged to ensure their children have measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) triple vaccination after controversial research was withdrawn.

Medical journal The Lancet, which originally published a paper which suggested a possible link between autism and MMR, has issued a full retraction. Its author, Dr Andrew Wakefield, has been criticised by the General Medical Council. Parents who want their children to have the jab should contact their health visitor or GP.

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# Remembering the Few at 70

■ BY MIKE BENNETT

A SERIES of spectacular events will take place in Kent this summer to mark the 70th anniversary of the greatest air battle in history.

The Battle of Britain, which was fought in the skies above the county, heralded a major turning point in World War Two.

Without aerial dominance, Hitler's Nazis were prevented from mounting a planned invasion of Britain, stemming the tide of the German advance across Europe in 1940.

From his home at Chartwell, near Westerham, Prime Minister Winston Churchill dubbed the battle Britain's "finest hour".

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the triumph, Biggin Hill Air Fair is planning an airfield attack and aerial display in June, and a major event will be staged at the National Memorial to the battle at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, in July.

The county's Spitfire, The Spirit of Kent, will also soar above the War and Peace Show at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood in July.

The Battle of Britain raged over Kent from July 10 until October 31, 1940, with brave RAF pilots

winning spectacular dog-fights, despite being completely outnumbered by the German Luftwaffe.

In a rousing address from Chartwell, Churchill declared in August, 1940, that: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The four months of intense aerial dogfights were fought above Kent to win dominance of the skies and also to protect London from Nazi attacks.

There were 71 squadrons within RAF Fighter Command, and the airmen known as 'The Few' came not only from Britain but also Poland, France, Belgium, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

A major celebration of the 70th anniversary of the triumph is planned for July 11 this year at the National Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, on the cliffs between Folkestone and Dover.

The most famous RAF fighter station at Biggin Hill airfield, which is now an airport near Westerham, will commemorate the anniversary at its 47th annual Air Fair on June 26-27.

Events will include a spectacular airfield attack enhanced through sound, pyrotechnics and giant screens, to help create the summer of 1940.

It will host a great number of Spitfires, Hurricanes and other key aircraft from the battle and has invited representatives and aircraft from the Allied nations to join the commemorations.



LEADER: Churchill



## WARBIRDS TAKE TO THE COUNTY'S SKIES AGAIN

TWO iconic Battle of Britain aircraft will return to the skies above Kent this year for the War and Peace Show.

The popular annual event will be held at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood just weeks after the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the turning point of World War Two.

The county's Spitfire fighter Spirit of Kent and the German Messerschmitt 108 (pictured) will take to the skies on Sunday, July 25.

Show organiser Rex Cadman said: "It will be good to hear the throaty roar of the Spitfire, particularly in such an important year, when we are celebrating the most significant event in the history of the RAF."

"The aircraft's appearance at the War and Peace Show is a tribute to the courageous airmen whose skill and determination played a crucial role in turning defeat into victory."

"The return of the Messerschmitt 108 provides a rare opportunity for people to see a German wartime aircraft in action."

"This machine was not a fighter, in the style of its sister aeroplane the Messerschmitt 109, but these machines were very much in the frontline, serving on fighter squadrons in the communications role."

Paul Campbell, of the Kent Spitfire, which has arranged the War and Peace Show display, said: "Both aircraft will be in authentic wartime livery and looking their best for such an important anniversary year."

# Language schools speechless over government visa rules

A CLAMPDOWN on foreign students entering the UK has sparked fears of a huge drop in numbers at Kent's language schools, colleges and universities.

Under new Home Office rules designed to reduce abuse of the system, visa applicants must now be able to speak a higher level of English before being allowed to stay.

But while many are pleased the Government is cracking down on those who pretend to be students and instead find jobs, further education bodies in Kent rely heavily on foreign intakes and are concerned.

Peter Worley, principal of Hilderstone College in Broadstairs, said: "I'd have thought every language school in the country and all the universities are aghast at these proposals.

"It's akin to dealing with an outbreak of weeds by bulldozing the garden. The Government is putting the language school industry at risk because it can't organise its legislation properly."

"Alan Johnson [the Home Secretary] says students wishing to study English must first have a good grasp of English, which is absurd."

"It's like saying you can't learn to drive unless you have already driven; or can't learn the trumpet until you have a good grasp of it."

Currently, anyone who successfully applies for a student visa can travel to the UK and work legally for up to 20 hours a week.

Under the new rules, applicants from outside the EU will have to speak English at a level just below GCSE standard, rather than beginner level as at present.

Those taking courses below degree level will also only be allowed to work 10 hours a week.

It is hoped the legislation will also reduce the threat of terrorism, but North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale said: "The Home Secretary has ignored cross-party warnings that his proposals will damage the interests of language schools, colleges and universities while doing nothing to address the real problem, which is illegal immigration and economic migration under the guise of seeking asylum."

"Kent is already suffering as agents placing students are choosing locations other than the UK because of the uncertainty."

"We need to control immigration, but we need to remember foreign students are worth a great deal to our economy, in the short and long term,

as graduates return to do business in Britain."

Most language schools are located along the south coast, with east Kent a particular hotspot.

The sector is worth about £1.5 billion to the economy, and Margate Language Centre principal Jon Burton said he was "shocked, disappointed and bemused" that it was being put at risk by the new legislation.

He said: "It's not just the schools that will miss out, it's Kent as a whole. Foreign students just won't bother coming, yet they are an important part of the economy of the county."

Professor Julia Goodfellow, vice-chancellor of the University of Kent, said she didn't think the legislation would affect applicants.

She said: "The policy is not an issue for universities as we have quite strong criteria anyway."

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### CHRIS TOOK



**Q** How long have you had connections with Ashford?

**A** My first full time job, post-university, was working in Eurostar's Ashford call centre (2002). I've had associations with the town ever since. I was selected as the Liberal Democrats candidate for the 2005 election in Ashford in September 2004.

**Q** How did you get into politics?

**A** I studied politics at A-Level and my degree was in European Politics. However, I really got involved in the 'doing' side of politics when I stood as a first time council candidate in 2003. I won that election by a single vote after five recounts! My result meant the council switched from Conservative to Liberal Democrat. It was a baptism of fire for a first timer.

**Q** What do you think a Liberal Democrat MP would be able to offer the people of Ashford? What do you think are the main challenges facing the town?

**A** Liberal Democrats, both nationally and locally, are famed for their campaigning strength and I'd like to think I'm no different. From tuition fees to Gurkha rights up to our current campaign to save sheltered accommodation from 'floating' wardens, we tend not to give up on issues. The main challenge that I see facing Ashford, Tenterden and the Villages is the imposition of 31,000 new dwellings in the town alone. Transport infrastructure, business and retail

space, local infrastructure and natural environment all need careful thought if we're going to cope with the government imposed target.

**Q** Given recent problems with expenses what do you think makes a good MP?

**A** A good MP should be responsive to their constituents, communicate regularly and effectively and, depending on whether they are in power or not, carefully scrutinise new laws and legislation. A good MP should also realise that their boss is the electorate. The number of MPs with outside interests, even after the expenses furore, seriously damages the perception of an MP as a public servant.

**Q** What do you think of Gordon Brown's attempts to change the voting system?

**A** I welcome voting reform – although Gordon Brown's proposal of AV plus can create a more disproportionate result than first past the post. It's encouraging the debate is being started although I would be surprised if anything is passed by the Commons before the election.

**Q** What will the Lib Dems do if there is a hung parliament? Do you think they will ever break through the dominance of the two larger parties?

**A** I would re-iterate the recent words of my leader Nick Clegg. He said simply that it is not Gordon Brown or David Cameron or Nick Clegg who are kingmakers in British politics, it's the British people. Whichever party has the

strongest mandate from the British people should be given the chance to govern, with or without Liberal Democrat help. When it comes to breaking the dominance of the 'big two' it's worth remembering that the Liberal Democrats won six million votes in 2005 compared to 8.75 million for the Tories and 9.5 million for Labour. Once we achieve 100 seats or more I firmly believe that the political duopoly will be broken. Over the last few years the Liberal Democrats have regularly received more votes in the ballot box than the Labour party. We can win elections where we work and that includes Ashford.

**Q** What is your position on Europe?

**A** I am pro-European and I have been since undertaking my degree in European politics. Europe shoots itself in the foot on a regular basis yet there are many positive things about European membership that politicians hardly ever talk about.

**Q** What sort of reaction do you get from people when you are canvassing? What was your most memorable experience?

**A** The usual reaction is politeness. A lot of the time people are pleased I'm not one of the other two or selling something. My most memorable reaction was one election-day. Some children answered the door and, after explaining why it was important to vote, they got their parents away from Eastenders and to the polling station. I'm not sure they voted for me!

**Q&A**

Chris Took, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Ashford explains how he got into politics, how the Liberal Democrats can bring change to the area and the continual fight against the two other parties

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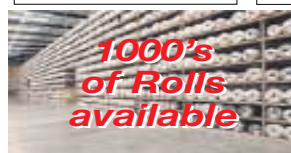
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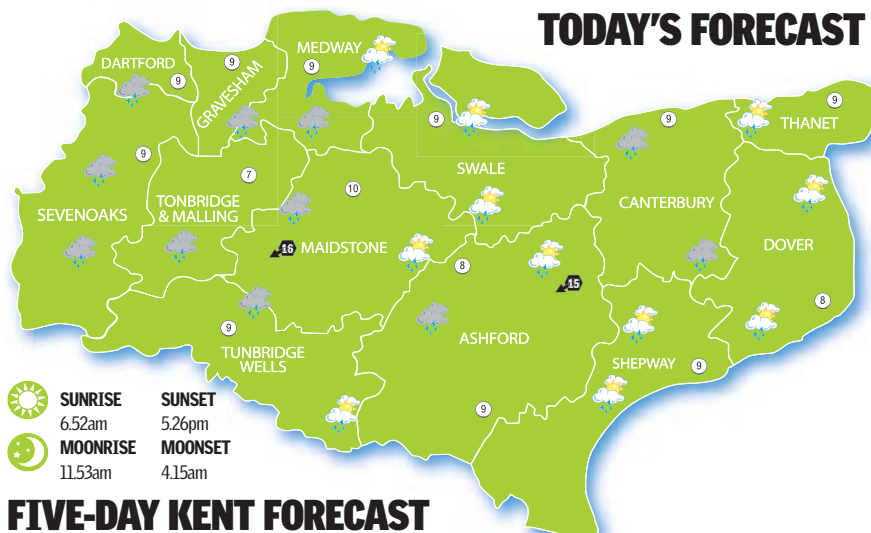
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## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:38am	6.0m
	Sunday	12:28pm	6.3m
Dover	Saturday	9:52am	6.4m
	Sunday	10:39am	6.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:50am	7.2m
	Sunday	10:39am	7.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:22am	4.9m
	Sunday	11:09am	5.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:27am	5.7m
	Sunday	12:18pm	6.0m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:32am	5.2m
	Sunday	12:25pm	5.4m

## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	4°C	Madrid	11°C
Athens	15°C	New York	6°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	12°C
Beijing	3°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	36°C
Cape Town	30°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	3°C	Tokyo	7°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	18°C	Warsaw	2°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	20°C



**MOVING ON:** Times vary, but high-speed link is quick

## Just a minute, travel time is an estimate?

SOUTHEASTERN has defended its position over the estimated time it takes to travel on the high-speed rail link to London.

Confusion has arisen as to whether the time taken to get to St Pancras is actually 38 or 37 minutes, as mentioned in much of the publicity before its launch in December.

Jon Hay-Campbell, from the train operator, said: "The high-speed time on average is actually about 37 minutes. When you look at national rail inquiries and especially the peak times, sometimes it is 35 minutes. Normally it is 36 in the peak, and off-peak it is sometimes 38, so the reality is 37 minutes is the average."

Last week the train company said it might have to consider changing some of its publicity material to account for the timings.

Ashford's Future which promotes Ashford as Best Placed in Britain has used the 37-minute figure in much of its marketing material.

It said it did not intend to alter any of its material to a new time.

A spokesman said: "We have no intention of changing anything. The 37-minute figure was always considered an estimated time."

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	4°C	10°C	8°C	9°C	9°C	Gravesend	4°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	8°C
Canterbury	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	6°C	Maidstone	5°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	8°C
Chatham	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C	Ramsgate	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	6°C
Dartford	4°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	Rochester	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C
Dover	4°C	8°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	3°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	6°C
Faversham	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C
Folkestone	4°C	8°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Tonbridge	4°C	9°C	8°C	8°C	9°C
Gillingham	4°C	9°C	8°C	9°C	8°C	Tun Wells	4°C	9°C	8°C	8°C	9°C

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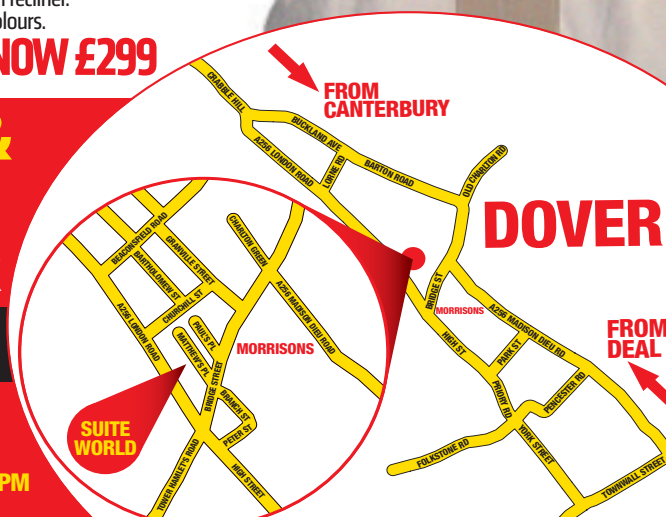
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# Badly behaved boars lined up in farmers' sights

■ BY MARIJKE COX

**WILD** boar wreaking havoc in the Kent countryside have forced desperate farmers to demand a widespread cull.

The herds are being blamed for killing lambs, destroying crops and, in the worst cases, attacking dogs, as they expand across the county.

Some farmers have admitted to losing thousands of pounds each year as the pigs destroy their crops, with others having to fork out for new fences to replace ones ripped apart by the animals.

And despite wild boar preferring the more wooded areas of the Kent and Sussex borders, an increasing number are now being spotted in eastern parts of the county.

Isabelle Bretherton, from the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said this is unsurprising as they are known to travel large distances.

"Once they have finished eating woodland plants in one area they will quickly move on to another," she said.

Risk of disease, damage to crops and attacks on livestock has pushed the NFU to back calls for management through culling.

"At the moment there is no management and this needs to be looked at," said Ms

Bretherton. "Like any wildlife, when the population reaches large levels, culling is sadly required. They shouldn't be wiped out altogether, but numbers need to be controlled."

Experts believe there could be more than 500 roaming between Kent and East Sussex.

And without predators such as wolves, the animals are top of the food chain, meaning numbers are not controlled naturally.

Hunting is permitted throughout the year and around 100 landowners have licences to cull them on their land.

Meat stocks from the animals provide butchers with quality, sought-after produce, but those in the agricultural industry still believe numbers need to be managed.

## Diversity

Critics, however, say wild boar add to the rich diversity of the countryside.

Peter Smith, from the Wildwood Trust at Herne, near Canterbury, agreed there needs to be some control, but stressed they should not be eradicated.

But farmer Jenny Farrant, who runs a farm in Beckley, on the border of Kent and Sussex, said some of her land has been destroyed, losing her about £50,000 over the years.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has drawn up a three-year action plan to help rural communities in Kent deal with the problem.



**EXPANDING FAMILY:** Rapidly breeding wild boar have brought calls for a cull from farmers in Kent and East Sussex

# Glass half full for pubs minister

**LEADING** names in Kent's pub trade have raised doubts over what the industry's new government minister can achieve just months before the general election.

While welcoming the appointment of John Healey as Britain's first pubs minister, both Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame and Thorley Taverns operations director Phil Thorley remain sceptical about a position that may cease to exist if the Conservatives win power.

Mr Thorley said: "It's like winning a penalty after the final whistle has already been blown – too little, too late.

"It's good to see they've finally recognised the industry needs focus, but for me it's just a token gesture in an attempt to win votes.

"There's something like 20 per cent fewer pubs today than when the Government came in 13 years ago, but they decide to appoint a minister just months before the election. We've had to deal with so many new laws and issues affecting the pub trade. It would take anyone time to understand them all, by the time John Healey does it will be too late for him to do anything about them."

The Thorley Taverns chain consists of 21 pubs in east Kent as well as clubs, restaurants and function rooms.

An estimated 40 UK pubs have closed every week over the past year, with challenges facing the industry including the recession, high rents, the smoking ban, changing consumer habits and cheap alcohol

in supermarkets. It is understood Mr Healey will consider introducing business tax breaks and relaxed planning laws to help pubs survive, something Mr Neame – chief executive of Britain's oldest brewer – is keen to see come to fruition. He said: "To have a single point of contact for the industry is extremely

beneficial, because previously we would have to deal with different departments for different issues and it was all very dysfunctional.

"But the obvious question is: what's he here for and what does he propose to do?"

"Essentially the Government's policy on alcohol over the last 15 years has favoured vodka and cider over beer, and nightclubs and supermarkets over traditional pubs, and we would like to see that reversed."

Mr Neame said he had already written to Mr Healey with suggestions of how he could help the pub trade, including freezing beer duty and offering rates relief

for pubs that provide other community services like internet access, public toilets and post offices.

A self-confessed beer lover, Mr Healey is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Beer group and a regular at pubs in his Wentworth constituency in South Yorkshire.

He said: "While we can't stop every pub from closing, it's right we do everything possible to back them.

"But they need help now, so I am determined to have a deal on the table with a package of help in the next few weeks."



**CHEERS:** John Healey is the first pubs minister



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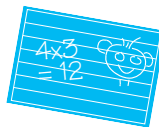
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## BREAK TIME

### Summer school is music to your ears

KENT Music is looking for youngsters to take part in its music courses at Benenden School in the summer.

The music school, held in July, is for ages eight and 19, to develop music skills through ensemble playing and singing.

Courses on offer include: wind instruments, symphony orchestras, string orchestras, jazz ensembles, recorder groups and singing.

The emphasis is on encouragement and entertainment, and every student, especially those studying music for GCSE or A-level, will find it invaluable.

At the end of each course, students will take part in a public concert.

To find sign up, visit [www.kent-music.com](http://www.kent-music.com) and go to the Summer School link to download application forms. Closing date for receipt of forms is February 26.

### Eco course brings fashion to the farm

STUDENTS at the North School on the the Environmental and Land-Based Diploma are currently undertaking a project called Fashion from the Farm.

The course explores alternative ways in which animals and plants can be used in society.

The students learn to spin wool, assess fleece quality and discover natural dyeing techniques.

Other projects include extracting oil from sunflowers and looking at sustainable construction at the 2012 Olympics.

# Pupils clean-up efforts give school the Red Flag

■ BY ED HILL

ALDINGTON Primary School has been awarded Red Flag status as part of the Clean Kent accreditation.

The scheme, launched in 2007, is aligned to the Kent Eco-Schools project. It recognizes and rewards schools that show commitment to the cleanliness of their estate and local area.

Primary schools participating can achieve Bronze, Silver and Red Flag levels of achievement.

The children won the accolade for regularly picking up litter in their school grounds.

With help from the local Kent County Council community warden, they also undertook a clean-up around the village green. They have also been helping to spread the environmental message and their experiences with another local primary school, helping them to be clean, green and safe.

Nick Chard, Kent County Council's cabinet member for environment highways and waste, said: "Aldington Primary School is one of nearly 200 schools working to gain a Clean Kent Schools accreditation. I am particularly impressed that the children are not only keeping their school grounds clean and tidy, but also their village for the benefit of others."

The Clean Kent campaign is a multi-agency scheme designed to clamp down on problems such as litter, fly-tipping and abandoned cars. The Schools Scheme provides schools with the resources to combat litter, educational tools including practical and classroom-based work



THUMBS UP: Pupils from Aldington Primary celebrate achieving Red Flag status in the Clean Kent Schools project

and support from Clean Kent officers throughout the accreditation process.

The school now hopes that the village will back a new scheme to introduce micro-generation energy sources to the school so they can reduce their carbon footprint.

Sandra MacCourt, headteacher at Aldington Primary, said: "I am very proud of the achievements of the pupils at the school. They set themselves clear goals and worked purposefully towards achieving them."

"The school has already attained Eco-school

Green Flag, runs a Walking Bus and is actively participating in the Bike-It scheme. The Clean Kent School Red Flag award takes us a step further towards becoming a sustainable school and has helped to raise children's awareness of how they can contribute, as good citizens, to enhancing their local environment."

To find out more about Clean Kent Schools and to register, log on to [www.cleankent.co.uk/primary/html](http://www.cleankent.co.uk/primary/html) or you can call 0845 345 0210 and e-mail [clean.kent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:clean.kent@kent.gov.uk).

SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)

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# yourashfordblogger

Dave Mairs suggests that grandiose visions should make way to more pragmatic concerns



## You won't hear the word 'sorry' at the bottom of a Kent pothole

SOMETHING extraordinary happened last week: the county council apologised for the state of the roads and the number of potholes that made driving all but impossible in some parts.

Crumbs, a touch of humility from County Hall – something, it's fair to say, that we're not overly used to in this part of the world.

Had KCC leader Paul Carter not been feeling well? One of those nasty winter chills, perhaps? Or maybe the county's highways chief Nick Chard was a little dazed and confused after pranging his car an icy road?

Although the latter might seem the best bet given the number of us who have suffered a similar fate of late, neither of the above misfortunes were, to my knowledge, true.

And, you shouldn't be surprised to learn, the apology didn't come from our leaders at Maidstone, but from Staffordshire County Council.

Not a part of the country I know well, but how refreshing to find a local authority ready to hold up its collective hands and say sorry, we know this wasn't good enough and we'll get it sorted.

It all contrasts rather depressingly with the

bluster emanating from our county hall, where an increasingly arrogant, pompous and self-important leadership appears to consider itself beyond the slightest reproach.

Consider the Icelandic banking fiasco that claimed £50 million of KCC's cash. That's our cash, by the way. Your cash.

Were we offered an apology for KCC having been so careless with our money?

OK, let's return quickly to the real world and recall what we did in fact get – a barrage of bleating and whining that the nasty old Audit Commission had decreed KCC's performance in the Icelandic affair to have been 'negligent'.

Legal action was threatened – using our cash, your cash – if the commission didn't remove the word 'negligent' from its report.

Presumably not fancying a potentially lengthy court squabble, the commission 'downgraded' the negligence charge to 'careless'.

I'm not convinced a 'careless' local authority should be handling our millions, but we must live with what we've got... a group seemingly more concerned with promoting its own sanctity than doing what is necessary to keep the county running.

And that, it is all too often forgotten, involves

the mundane: disposing of our rubbish, keeping our libraries stocked with an up-to-date selection of books, keeping our roads in a drivable state...

Which many of them are not at the moment. I've (thus far) got away lightly this winter – I just need my car's tracking fixed after thumping into one pothole too many – but countless people will have been forking out for smashed wheels, shredded tyres, wrecked suspensions and so on as the shocking state of the county's roads has taken its toll.

So when Cllr Carter is next unveiling his vision (spare us!) to an adoring audience about how he would like to cover yet more countryside with another road across the Thames, or how he would like a series of lorry parks across Kent, or how he would so like to emulate the wondrous achievements of the Victorians, perhaps someone close to him might venture to suggest that keeping open the roads we've got should be the priority.

Oh, and learning how to say sorry once in a while when he or his authority gets it wrong.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Blogs do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to air as wide a range of opinions as possible. A full name and address must be provided by all bloggers.**

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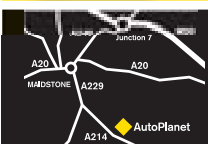
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## TALK TIME

### GEOFF DIXON

The group manager at Kent Music talks about his job and why he believes music is an excellent way to instil confidence and inspire creativity



#### Tell us a bit about your job.

I oversee the provision of Kent's many county groups which are run by Kent Music for Kent County Council and Medway Council. There are approximately 700 musicians aged between seven and 25 in 16 county level groups, eight choirs, two orchestras, two wind bands, a jazz orchestra, two recorder ensembles and the Kent Music Academy. Further to this we run our annual three-week summer school which attracts an additional 1,000 young musicians from around the county.

#### Why do you think music is a good hobby and talent to have?

Learning to play a musical instrument develops many useful skills in young people such as the ability to work on their own while practising and also to work as part of a team when rehearsing in groups. When taught and encouraged properly individual and group music lessons instil confidence, discipline and commitment. On top of this, of course, it's a very enjoyable hobby through which you can make life-long friendships.

#### What have you got coming up in 2010?

In April we are presenting a short festival of Kent Music county groups concerts in Chatham. This starts on April at the Brook Theatre. On April 10 we have the Kent county youth orchestra playing the Dvorak's new world symphony in the Central Theatre, and lastly we have the Kent youth choirs and Kent youth wind orchestra playing music from Broadway on April 11, also at the Central Theatre. Full details are on [www.kent-music.com](http://www.kent-music.com).

## YOUR LETTERS



### Nepalese are right up my street

I would like to applaud the efforts of the Sagarmatha Gurkha Nepalese community in Ashford in cleaning up the Warren. Only the week before I was telling a friend of mine (Jade, 4) that the little people were watching us to make sure we weren't the bad people who drop rubbish in the forest, and that the little people have to clean up the mess after the bad people were gone, with every intention of doing it myself.

It would seem I was pre-empted by these wonderful, magical people, with their amazing sense of community, their religion of peace and environmental responsibility, and I fully intend to join them should they wish to do this again, though I wish we didn't need to.

There have been concerned mumblings concerning a Nepali invasion, but if this is what they get up to in their spare time they are more than welcome to our formerly green and pleasant land. I would also like to take this



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opportunity to oppose the Park & Ride scheme planned for the field adjacent to the Warren. Previous schemes in places such as Canterbury have proven to be more trouble than they are worth, and the building and use of a Park

& Ride would have a detrimental affect on the Warren itself.

CPRE's Election Manifesto, which I support, calls for protection of our green spaces and tighter laws on littering and fly-tipping. Green Party policy

states that we shall "...retain and rigorously strengthen Green Belt legislation..." (CY561) and I intend to uphold both.

Once again, a huge 'Dan Ya Bad' to the Nepalese community, and I hope to join them next time.

Steve Campkin, PPC Ashford Green Party

## Council tenants' difficult lives

I don't believe that the anonymous correspondent who wrote in stating that council tenants all live in decent houses and if they dislike their abode then they should move out, has any comprehension whatsoever of the difficult circumstances a lot of tenants are forced to endure.

Many council homes are essentially sheltered accommodation for vulnerable people, either with mental illness or fighting addictions, who have no savings and exist on the bare minimum to survive each week.

Faulty heating appliances and rising damp are notoriously common problems in council flats and houses. To get the council to successfully undertake repair work often takes an eternity.

Sub-standard housing is compounded by substandard council workmanship.

Tenants in squalid conditions unfit for human habitation can either grin and bear it or move out and live on the streets. Not much choice really is it?

The council needs to make regular inspections to ensure that all of their properties meet the required standards of acceptability, and if they do not, to arrange for repairs to be conducted with speedy efficiency.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler

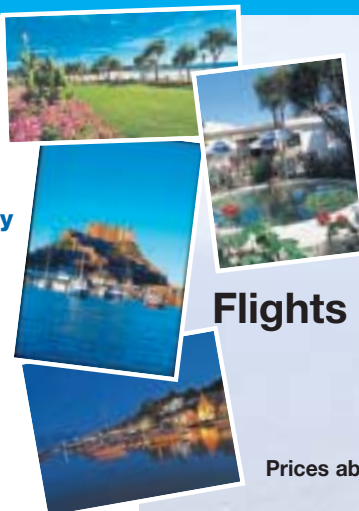
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## Stop public funding into private pockets

Does group-think predominate among academics, finance, economists, politicians and media where logic bows before wishful thinking?

Aggressive monetarist-theory-promoters urge spending our way out of recession, without genuine attempts to provide jobs. What of innocent job-seekers on a pittance of £60.50 per week? How can we overcome the artificial-construct free market and government-inflicted avalanche of bad debts, state-sector pension deficits and one million government non-job liabilities? How many millions of us are condemned to poverty despite being thrifty while spendthrifts thrive, eg MEPs get £2 from us for each £1 they pay into their EC pensions, when we are already overloaded by taxes.

Tory/Labour cosy duopoly rewards them, their lobbyist cronies and supporters with an immoral transfer of public funding into private pockets. Or why does PR-occupied Cameron remind me of Mr Bean to Stalin? Osborne, Fox, Hammond, Lansley, etc are they Rasputin clones, fixated on political advantage and empire-building not

on the real issues that afflict a divided and dissatisfied nation.

Rita Grootendorst

## Don't cut back on university education

The Government proposes to make cuts of £449 million in the University sector.

The Kent Green Party is urging people to campaign against these cuts, for the sake of our young people and everyone who wants access to university education.

The university sector is expecting to turn away up to 300,000 would-be students in the autumn, including applicants from all over Kent and Medway. Government cuts in funding are to blame. Kent-based universities and colleges are all very likely to be turning students away.

The Government found £37 billion in a single day as part of its strategy to prop up the banking system. At a time of rising unemployment, and bearing in mind persistent skills shortages in the UK, it cannot be acceptable to put people on the dole rather than into Higher Education.

UCAS says applications from home students are already 22 per cent above last year, and overseas applications are up 28.7 per cent.

The University and College Union has already quite rightly condemned the proposed cuts, which threaten the future careers of these applicants. Cuts can be made elsewhere.

Government should not cut the futures of those prepared to take on the challenges, and costs, of university education.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

## Are you are carer not being cared for?

More than five million people across the UK currently care for a loved one, yet shockingly, more than two thirds of those do not see themselves as carers, and do not register on the radars of health or care organisations.

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I'm supporting the NHS Carers Direct 'Who Cares?' campaign, to help ensure that the millions of carers across the UK are taking advantage of the support available to them. The Carers Direct helpline can be that all-important first port of call.

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Dr Hilary Jones

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# Popular village pub is steeped in history

### ■ The Walnut Tree

THE INN called the Walnut Tree in Aldington was built during the reign of King Richard II (1377-1399) and has a very colourful history.

Now it is a popular village inn offering excellent food and drink. It is open for business while improvements are being made – including a lowered ceiling and extra beams to keep up its smuggling days ambience.

The pub started life as a timber-framed hut with a thatched roof, but by the 17th century ale was being brewed on the premises.

During the Napoleonic Wars the village was the stronghold of the Aldington Gang – ruthless smugglers who roamed the nearby Romney Marsh area.

The themed Smugglers restaurant has just undergone a series of improvements with a lower ceiling and new decorations.

Easter is always special in Aldington and on Easter Sunday the pub is open as normal. The following day the local point-to-point meeting is held at nearby Church Lane.

To celebrate the pub will be serving food from 10am to 6pm and a special pre-race brunch, including a full English breakfast and Champagne (£7.50), will be available from



10am until noon. Weather permitting, a bouncy castle will be in the garden.

On March 14, Mothering Sunday, why not celebrate with our special two-course meal (adults £11.95, children £7.95) with sittings at

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# yourashfordmusic

## It's time to audition if you think you can Roc Da Mic



**TALENTED** singers, rappers, poets and dancers are being urged to enter an X-Factor-style competition.

The Roc Da Mic contest will see the best young hopefuls from across the UK go head-to-head for the title – which comes with a recording contract and a £10,000 cash prize.

Open auditions will be held in London, Sheffield, Belfast, Cardiff and 12 other locations across the country.

But before all that, the Roc Da Mic judges will head to Maidstone on Sunday, March 28.

Competition founder Melissa Bell – mother of X-Factor winner Alexandra Burke and former lead singer of 80s giants Soul II Soul – said she was hoping for a big turn-out.

“The Maidstone audition will be for the whole of Kent and we’re hoping to bring in the crowds and get people performing,” she said. “The panel will be made up of industry experts and notable producers. We won’t be harsh like they are on the X-Factor, although we’ll be honest about people’s abilities.”

In contrast to the multi-million pound ITV show, money made from the competition will go to three charities; the British Kidney Patient Association, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Haiti earthquake appeal.

Ms Bell, who was struck down with kidney failure three years ago, said: “The Kidney Patient Association is a very important charity and helps people in my condition.”

“I have to have dialysis every other day and it is debilitating – I can’t actually do anything some days.”

“I can’t find a job because of this and have to rely on benefits, but the charity helps people

■ BY MARIJKE COX



**WINNING TEAM:** Roc Da Mic founder Melissa Bell with her daughter, X Factor winner Alexandra Burke, left

who struggle like me, with things like advice and travel – they also help fund holidays for patients.”

Hopefuls will have to pay £20 to enter, or £25 for a band, which pays for a tutorial lesson worth £45 and an artist’s support pack.

“This is like a mini-bible of tips and links to help people launch a career in the industry,” said Ms Bell. “Money made from this will go to the charities and pay for overheads.”

The finals of the competition will be held in London later in the year.

“Alex has said she will support us once we’re on the road,” said Ms Bell.

“She has also said she’ll sing at the final and hopefully JLS will be able to perform too.”

To register go to [www.rocdamic.co.uk](http://www.rocdamic.co.uk), email [registration@rocdamic.co.uk](mailto:registration@rocdamic.co.uk) for an application form or call the helpline on 0207 607 4986.

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Kent-based funk quartet Tokyo Jo play their song Mamajam



Singer songwriter Lucy Kitt performs for The Ether.



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Times Change (from Deal)
- 2 Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn (from Deal)
- 3 Gristlefridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 4 The Flack - Forget Me (from Deal)
- 5 Shelta - We Can Make It (from Bexley)

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## yourleisure



# Book your spot on that broom

Witch's hunt for her missing possessions could end in disaster as her friends hitch a lift in this family show

### ROOM ON THE BROOM

Various dates and venues

YOUNG audiences will be swept away when a magical adventure visits theatres in the county.

Room On The Broom is a colourful and captivating musical production from the people behind The Gruffalo, which has delighted theatre-goers of all ages. Now the Tall Stories Theatre Company presents another adaptation of a children's story.

Julia Donaldson's best-selling book, with illustrations by Axel Scheffler, has been transformed into a hit show that was a sell-out success at last year's Edinburgh Festival.

Suitable for children aged three and above, Room On The Broom is a

wonderful show for family audiences.

On an ordinary night, a witch and her cat are flying along on their broomstick without a care in the world. But suddenly a mighty wind hits the pair and blows the witch's hat, bow and wand into the night.

Determined to find her lost possessions, they come across some new friends who all hop on to the broomstick for a ride.

With the help of a daft dog, a beautiful bird and a friendly frog, it looks like they will find the witch's missing things. But the broomstick is not built for five – who will save the witch when disaster strikes?

A talented cast brings this magical tale to life, including Karina Garnett, who plays Cat. Having worked with many respected companies such as Glyndebourne Opera, Trestle and the Royal Shakespeare Company, Garnett is a highly experienced

performer who should give this magical puss the perfect purr.

Sarah Louise Young, who plays Witch, has many theatre credits and is also an accomplished cabaret performer.

She is a member of Showstopper! The Improvised Musical and her third solo show drew much critical acclaim, while her TV credits include Strictly Confidential, Casualty, No Angels, Doctors, Holby City and The Jury.

Bird is played by Alex Scott Fairley, whose theatre credits range from The Taming Of The Shrew to Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!, while Phil Yarrow, who plays Dog, has also appeared in a vast array of shows.

Room On The Broom can be seen at the Central Theatre, Chatham, this Friday and Saturday and at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from Thursday to Saturday, March 4-6.



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## IAN SHAW AND TINA MAY

Sunday, February 28  
Pizza Express, Maidstone



THERE will be double trouble at Pizza Express' Music Room this week as two top jazz vocalists visit.

Singer Ian Shaw, pictured, was due to perform in Maidstone in December, but snow stopped play so the concert was rescheduled. He will be joined by the fantastic Tina May, whose voice is said to have the ability to 'melt the stoniest of hearts'.

Crowned the BBC Best Jazz Vocalist in 2004 and 2007, Shaw is widely considered one of the world's best singers in the genre.

His career began on the alternative cabaret circuit where he entertained with acts like Julian Clary, Rory Bremner and Jo Brand.

He eventually made the move into jazz and over the years he has collaborated with great names from John Dankworth to Barb Jungr.

Tina May discovered her jazz voice while studying French at university. Spending a year in Paris gave her the chance to work with talented musicians.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £16. Book at [www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk](http://www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk).



## ASHFORD LEISURE

### Get your free tickets for Kent Big Day Out

THOUSANDS of free tickets will be available for the Kent Big Day Out.

On Saturday, March 27, more than 100 castles, houses, railways, sporting venues open their doors free. Now in its fourth year, the event offers an even wider choice of attractions.

Tickets are available from visitor information centres and at [www.kentbigdayout.com](http://www.kentbigdayout.com) from Friday.

### Creatures of the night are subject of talk

GO batty for bats when the Singleton Environment Centre hosts a talk about these fascinating mammals.

Shirley Thompson from the Kent Bat Group will be giving a compelling insight into the world of the nocturnal creatures at the centre in Wesley School Road at 1.30pm on Tuesday, admission costs £2. For details call BTCV on 01233 666519 or email [kent@btcv.org.uk](mailto:kent@btcv.org.uk).

### Bad Pennies turn to pay tribute to rock greats

FOR top rock and blues, head down to the George Hotel in Ashford this week.

Bad Pennies is a Medway-based band that pays tribute to the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher, Thin Lizzy, Gary Moore and more. Find out more at [www.badpennies.co.uk](http://www.badpennies.co.uk).

They will be at the venue in High Street at 9pm on Friday. For details of the venue call the pub on 01233 625512.

### Enjoy some Cold Shots at pub's music night

INDIE and rock fans can enjoy an evening of great music in Singleton on Saturday.

Cold Shots plays covers of rock hits from the likes of Jet, Feeder, Oasis, and Kings of Leon. Find out more at [www.myspace.com/coldshotsrock](http://www.myspace.com/coldshotsrock).

Cold Shots are at the Singleton Barn in Tithe Barn Lane on Saturday. For details of the venue call 01233 629379.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



The transformation of Sandwich's Secret Garden. Search 'secret'

## EMILY PORTMAN

Wednesday, February 24  
Orange Street Music Club, Canterbury



ENTER the rich and captivating world of folk singer Emily Portman when she visits Canterbury with her Trio.

Also a writer and concertina player, Portman has a wonderful voice which has attracted the attention of folk artist Shirley Collins. She earned a BBC Folk Award nomination with harmony trio The Devil's Interval and tours annually with Waterson: Carthy, as well as performing with her band Rubus.

As a soloist, she featured in the BBC's adaptation of Tess of the D'Urbervilles and has also appeared on alternative folk artist Alasdair Roberts' forthcoming album. Collins described her as 'special...beautiful and



charming' and her original compositions demonstrate her extraordinary talent as a writer.

Drawing her inspiration from folk tales and ballads, Portman uses harmony-rich narratives to explore the female experience and conjure up dark landscapes that captivate listeners. Her

new songs are already being showcased by BBC Radio 3, ahead of the release of her debut album The Glamoury.

The show starts at 8pm with support from Jo Lepine and Naomi, and admission costs £5 in advance or £6 on the door. For details visit [www.myspace.com/twilightfolkclub](http://www.myspace.com/twilightfolkclub).

## BIG TIME AMERICAN WRESTLING

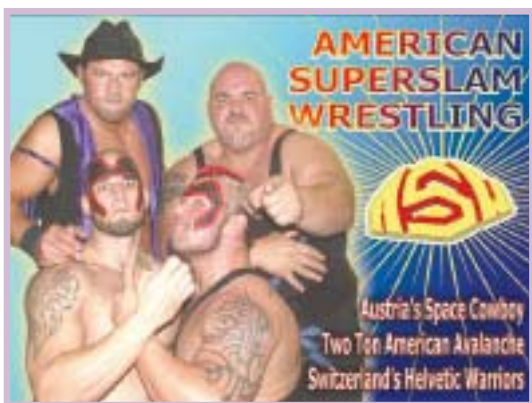
Friday, March 12  
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

GET ready to rumble as Big Time American Wrestling prepares to smack-down in Shepway.

For sheer excitement and exhilaration, live wrestling is great live entertainment and All Star Wrestling promises a thrilling night out.

Now in its 11th year, Big Time American Wrestling is a fantastic way to see top talent from American and home shores in action.

Ever since World of Sport hooked television viewers in the 60s and 70s, wrestling has proved a compelling spectacle and some huge characters have emerged. While other promoters have been up against the ropes, All Star has continued to thrive and attract some



great Stateside wrestlers as well as British muscle.

Last year more than 250,000 people watched All Star events and this year, the exciting Great Britain versus North America theme is continuing to attract wrestling fans to this nationwide spring tour.

The latest team of World Federation Superstars will do battle with British heroes in this two-hour, action-packed show.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12/£10 or £35 for families. To book call 0844 847 1776 or visit [www.leascliffhall.org.uk](http://www.leascliffhall.org.uk).

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### THE LAST STATION (15)



This love story set during the final year of the life of Russian writer Leo Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer) focuses on the terrible strain borne by his wife, Countess Sofya (Helen Mirren).

### PONOMOY (U)



This is the latest animated masterpiece from Oscar-winning anime legend Hayao Miyazaki, drawing on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale The Little Mermaid for inspiration.

### THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Walt Disney makes a break with tradition by casting its first-ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the classic Grimm Brothers fairy tale.

# Glimpse of heaven too much of a good thing

■ BY DAMON SMITH

THERE is life after death in Peter Jackson's visually-stunning interpretation of the bestseller by Alice Sebold, which proves to be one adaptation too far for the Oscar-winning director of The Lord Of The Rings trilogy and King Kong.

Cutting back and forth between the real world and a colour-saturated heavenly limbo, The Lovely Bones details the efforts of a murdered 14-year-old schoolgirl who helps her grieving father apprehend her killer from beyond the grave.

In doing so, the girl's tortured spirit can attain lasting peace, along with those of the murderer's other victims.

Jackson's screenplay, co-written with wife Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens, is caught in its own limbo, unable to bridge the narrative divide between the two planes where the story unfolds.

A miasma of computer-generated special effects in the otherworldly sections is distracting and we yearn for a speedy return to the drabness of reality.

Fantasy is vastly overrated.

The story begins with youngster Susie Salmon, played by Saoirse Ronan, on her way home from school in early December 1973.

She is lured to her death by neighbour George Harvey (Stanley Tucci), who dismembers the girl and hides her remains in a cast-iron safe in his basement.

Detective Len Fenerman and his colleagues never find Susie, just her woollen hat in a cornfield and traces of the girl's blood.

The teenager's father, Jack (Mark



CAMPAIGN: Mark Wahlberg as father Jack Salmon

Wahlberg), mother Abigail (Rachel Weisz) and booze-soaked grandmother Lynn (Susan Sarandon) are denied a chance to bury the child.

Jack sacrifices his marriage to embark on a tireless campaign to track down his daughter's killer, but there is no evidence, and the police grow tired of his theories.

Classmate Ruth Connors is touched by Susie's spirit and could perhaps provide that vital link between life and death.

## VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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Meanwhile, George watches the Salmons closely from his home across the street, fixating on Susie's younger sister, Lindsey.

"Mr Harvey began to feel a familiar itch," confides the murdered teenager in voiceover. "It had been a long time now..."

The Lovely Bones is hamstrung by Wahlberg's inability to convey a single genuine emotion. He wrings crocodile tears in vain and tries to make us care about his patriarch's quest for vengeance.

Ironically, the dead have far more life, especially Ronan, who delivers Sebold's words in heart-tugging voiceover: "I would like to tell you that it is beautiful here, that I am, as you will one day be, forever safe... but it's not quite like that."

THE LOVELY BONES  
Certificate 12

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## ASHFORD SHOPPING

### Dig out some great brass-band sounds

THE spirit of the mines lives on through a new album featuring Kent's Betteshanger Brass.

A track by the band appears on The Music Lives On Now The Mines Have Gone, released on Monday to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike.

Betteshanger Brass are one of a number of historic colliery bands to record tracks for the Universal Music album.

Visit [www.themusicliveson.co.uk](http://www.themusicliveson.co.uk).

### Sit on the naughty step at Bluewater signing

SUPERMANNY Jo Frost will be signing copies of her new book at Bluewater this weekend.

The internationally-renowned child-care expert gives top tips on how to raise children in Jo Frost's Confident Baby Care, which is published by Orion and priced at £14.99.

Frost will be appearing at Waterstone's from 2pm on Sunday.

For more information, phone the store on 01322 624831.

### Go back to natural B4 your colour disaster

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Republic stores can be found in Canterbury, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Bluewater. Visit [www.republic.co.uk](http://www.republic.co.uk).

### A night you can gamble on being just gorgeous

FIND out how you can Be Gorgeous with a special pamper and shopping evening at G Casino.

The venue at Westwood Cross in Thanet is offering ladies the chance to browse stalls, enjoy a free glass of bubbly, get free gaming tuition and enter a charity raffle.

The event runs from 7pm-10pm tonight (Wednesday) and admission is free, but visitors can enjoy a two-course meal and drink for £10 by booking in advance. Phone Sherrill on 01843 579361/579999.

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# See Med from comfort of your own stateroom

AFTER stops in France, Italy, Greece and Turkey, catching glimpses of cities such as Rome, Nice and Naples, and seeing the Pope in St Peter's Square, we often wondered what might happen next on our Mediterranean cruise.

Sailing from Barcelona to the Greek islands on the Brilliance Of The Seas, operated by Royal Caribbean International, we were in for more surprises and beautiful sights.

Two weeks at sea took us to our farthest port, Kusadasi in Turkey, gateway to Ephesus – once the second largest city of the Roman Empire. The town itself was a pleasant place, with happy people, happy shopkeepers and samples of Turkish delight, magnificent carpets, leather goods, gold and diamonds.

Naples is the gateway to the historic gems of Pompeii and Herculaneum, buried by erupting Vesuvius in AD 79. You could also tour

■ BY DAVID MASTIN

Sorrento and the Amalfi coast, or settle for lunch on the isle of Capri.

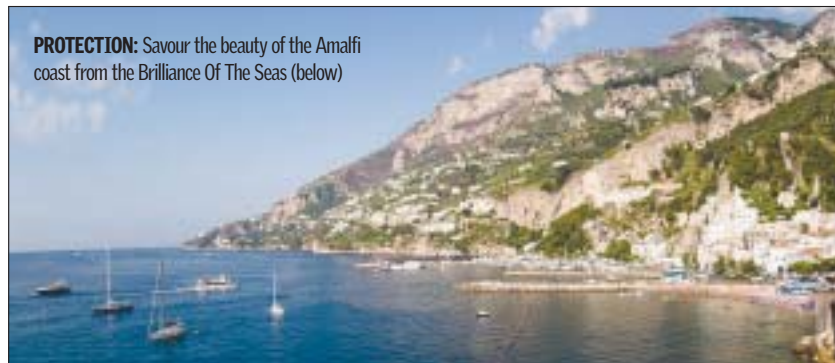
You pay extra for the trips and some are expensive (£135 for a ten-hour guided tour of Rome), but there are shorter, cheaper trips to from which to choose.

And after a hard day sightseeing, it is comforting to know that you will be soon be back to the comfort of the ship, where food – and more food – awaits.

In Barcelona, the transfer from airport to ship was slick and easy, and the Brilliance Of The Seas offered all we could expect, and more. Some passengers treated themselves to a short break in Barcelona before we sailed.

On board, meal times are as flexible as they can make them. There is fixed-time dining in two sittings in the swish Minstrel Restaurant, where you mostly share a table for ten, or you

**PROTECTION:** Savour the beauty of the Amalfi coast from the Brilliance Of The Seas (below)



can opt for anytime dining by arrangement.

There is also a serve-yourself eating area, the Windjammer, and various snack stations throughout the ship.

In the two speciality restaurants, the Chops Grill boasts 'the best steak on the high seas' while the Portofino serves Italian food. Both charged about £12 extra per person.

All cabins – or staterooms as cruise lines call them – have a TV and a hairdryer, and I could not fault the cabin service.

Food and entertainment – superb shows every night in the Pacific Theatre and various bar combos around the ship – are included in the price, although alcoholic drinks cost extra.

We saw something of so many places in 12 days that would have cost much more going independently, and a cocoon of cruise-ship comfort was a good way of doing it.



- David Mastin was a guest of Royal Caribbean International, which offers 12 nights on Brilliance Of The Seas this summer from £1,372, including flight from Heathrow to Barcelona and transfers. Prices are based on early-May departure.
- August price is £1,398. Package is available until November.
- RCCL reservations: 0844 493 2061 and [www.royalcaribbean.co.uk](http://www.royalcaribbean.co.uk).

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## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

### MY BIG FAT GYPSY WEDDING Channel 4, 9pm, Thursday

CARDS on the table – I thought I knew tacky.

Having been born and raised in the fake-gold capital of the south (big shout out to the Chatham massive) I would have put money on my ability to reach the very core of tacky-ness and the tacky 'look'.

I've seen many more 'gold' clown pendants, scrunchies and big, almost parrot-perchable, hooped earrings in my time than I'd care to.

For my sins, I've also seen enough 'celebrity' features in women's magazines to gain a complete understanding of what makes someone/something eye-wateringly tacky, common and unappealing.

Yes, up until last week I would have considered myself an expert on tacky. But I was wrong.

Channel 4's My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding proved that I was a mere tacky rookie and there were deeper levels of gaudiness that I simply never knew existed.

For those of you who missed it, think Jordan's wedding's level of sheer awfulness and times that by 100.

The hour-long show took the viewer into the lives of a handful of young gypsy and traveller girls, documenting the run-up to their wedding days.

We were introduced to their families and their fiancés as well as the country's leading traveller wedding dress maker. For you see, the dress is the biggest concern for a blushing gypsy bride. And when it comes to the dress the maxim of bigger is better has never held truer.

We're talking dresses weighing up to 27 stone that leave permanent scars. To put it into context, that's like wearing two-and-a-half fully



**TACK-OMETER:** Channel Four's My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding proved quite an eye-opener

grown men up the aisle, while they subsequently go to town on your hips with a blunt knife. These dresses billow out to such a degree that navigating stairs/corridors/doors and otherwise becomes a team effort requiring military-type planning.

At one point, a young bride was forced to side-step down a spiral staircase like a demented half-Cinderella half-crab cross breed.

And then there were the God-awful horse-drawn carriages.

And on to the bridesmaids dresses. I understand it's accepted that the bride may wish to pick unflattering dresses for her bridesmaids to ensure all eyes are on her, but come now, surely there's some limit here?

Despite the weddings reaching unknown levels of tacky-ness, the women underneath the dresses came across incredibly well.

They were shown to be obedient to their parents, respectful and entirely devoted to the sanctity of marriage.

My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding was sold on its shock factor, but perhaps the underlying message is that the gypsy and traveller community – so often marginalised and dismissed by the majority of the population – has a lot to teach us.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

AN OLD fear will rear its head. You need to break free of this phobia. You must admit that you hate being prevented from doing what you like because of panic attacks. An authority figure is doing everything in their power to stop you getting the instruction you need.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A WELL-CONNECTED friend will grant you access to an exclusive organisation. This is a wonderful opportunity to share a fundraising idea. Don't be surprised if you're offered a job. An older colleague is jealous of your success. Beware of leaving confidential information lying around.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



### LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR energy and enthusiasm attracts lots of romantic attention. A witty sophisticate could make a pass at you. If you're single, go ahead and take the bait. If not, stay true to your beloved. Your partner is long overdue for a token of your affection.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

TAKING the helm of an important organisation will give you a chance to flex your artistic muscles. Getting paid to create something beautiful is the next best thing to heaven. This time around, you won't have any annoying adults to tell you to put down your work and go to bed.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

A PUBLIC presentation will cause your star to rise. Everybody wants you to be on their team. You'll get several exciting offers this week. Choose the one that affords the most creative freedom. It may pay less than some other jobs, but don't be fooled – you'll be much happier.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



### GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

GOING on a last-minute trip will put you in contact with some very influential people. Keep your eyes open for a stylish athlete. Your new acquaintance will tip you off to an exciting job opening. Be sure to ask for a letter of recommendation. Arguments are taking a toll on your nerves.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



### VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

PROMOTING the interests of a colleague makes you feel virtuous. Although they will probably never know the extent to which you've helped them, that doesn't matter. You just want to be channelling your energy in a positive direction. Fortunately, a best friend appreciates it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

THIS is a great time to look for a new home or put a deposit on a piece of property. You'll be able to find a spacious place for a very reasonable sum. The opportunity to teach a class will put you in the path of romance. Someone who admires your ability will ask for a date.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

WORKING behind the scenes yields the best results. You hate compromising your creative vision to a corporate power. If you're able to develop a project in secret, you won't have to alter it very much later. Still, it's important to steer clear of authority figures.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



### CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU need to spend money to make money, so if you're looking for work, invest in a stylish interview suit. You may want to pay an expert to update your CV, too. Going on an overseas trip could be in the cards. This will be a marvellous opportunity to combine business with pleasure.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



### LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOU could find romance while working as part of a team. It's hard to resist someone who makes you feel glamorous and great. If you're already in a relationship, take this opportunity to plan an outing with friends. Being surrounded by friends will create a lovely feeling of intimacy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR overbearing attitude is alienating your friends. Although you're worried that a relative is putting themselves in danger, there's nothing you can do to stop them. Instead of bearing down hard, give them space. Showing faith in their judgment will strengthen your relationship.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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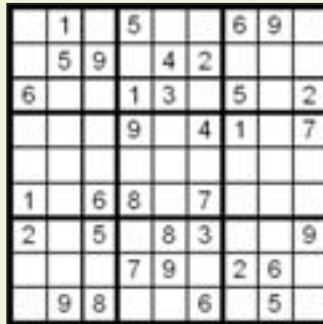
## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No126

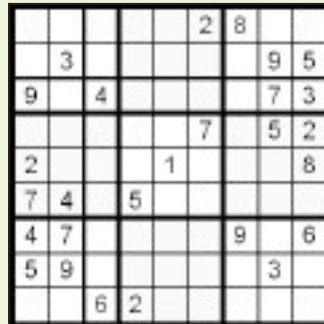
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

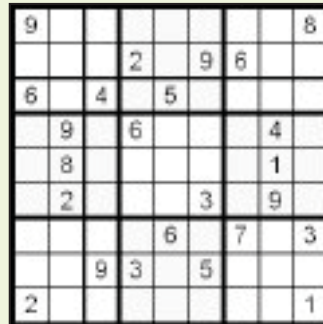
### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



### CRYPTIC CLUES

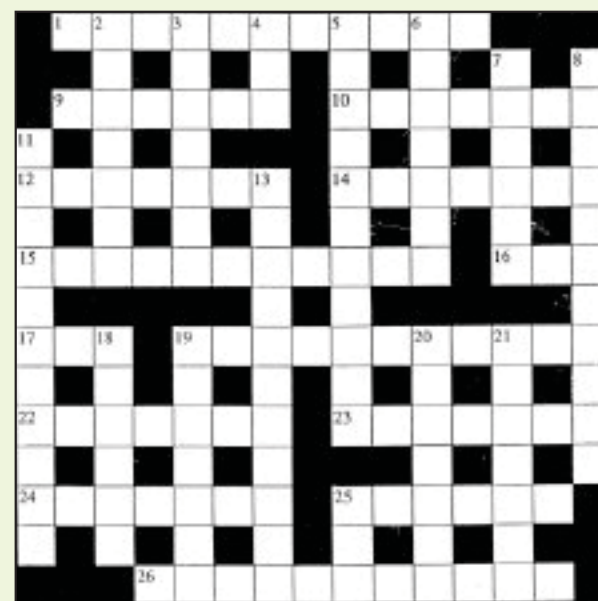
#### ACROSS

- 1 Clear shrill sound made at end of this tour (7-4)
- 9 Like a cat's-cradle, hard to explain (6)
- 10 Nobleman laid hog out (7)
- 12 Some in the groups urged strong increase (7)
- 14 Left cockney lady at Caithness town for even more northerly one (7)
- 15 Supposed to have done some magic round city square (11)
- 16 Stool has no sides as well (3)
- 17 Quietly notice writing-paper (3)
- 19 What bloomer could have been made by one in the Twelve? (11)
- 22 Discordant groan by last character with a dress fabric (7)
- 23 Russian physiologist had a meringue dish (7)
- 24 Establish in Iowa perhaps (7)
- 25 Illuminated during daylight hours (6)
- 26 Cheat makes brief alteration (5-6)

#### DOWN

- 2 Pass made by youngster involving practical skill (5-2)
- 3 Deliver television for nothing (3,4)
- 4 Unprofessional song? (3)
- 5 Learner's joint yearly grant (11)
- 6 Arranged as commanded (7)
- 7 Left during inapt rendering of dirge (6)
- 8 Second person to be aware which item is unspecified, but well-understood (3-4-4)
- 11 Opposite of a dead loss? (5,6)
- 13 Naturally it sticks out at the side of one's face (8,3)
- 18 Get Sid round to break down food (6)
- 19 He bet with an eccentric at a lower level (7)
- 20 Alan and I, about six, went round for the girl (7)
- 21 Making a low sound when anchoring ship (7)
- 25 Ransacking only part of bag (3)

### SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 Fruit from a tropical tree (7,4)
- 9 Garcia (anag.) (6)
- 10 Life's struggle (3,4)
- 12 Untwist (7)
- 14 Promiscuous (7)
- 15 Chiller (4,7)
- 16 Bend (3)
- 17 Knight (3)
- 19 Combination of events (11)
- 22 Plus Mum (anag.) (4,3)
- 23 Bend (7)
- 24 Strong feeling (7)
- 25 Small group (6)
- 26 Unavoidable (11)

#### DOWN

- 2 Of plant life (7)
- 3 Of the heart (7)
- 4 GP (colloq.) (3)
- 5 Part of the Arabian Sea (7,4)
- 6 Bid (7)
- 7 Capital of Croatia (6)
- 8 Tropical disease (6,5)
- 11 Mercury (11)
- 13 Mounds (11)
- 18 Martinet (6)
- 19 Pillow (7)
- 20 Break in line of verse (7)
- 21 Odd (7)
- 25 Tea (3)

## Thanet's Live Music Scene

Friday 26th February

### V Twins

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 27th February

### Salvador Charlie

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th February

### Captain Mildred

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 6th March

### Where's my Thing

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 6th March

### Vinyl Decent

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 12th March

### Bad Pennies

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 13th March

### Jed

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 13th March

### Nearly Famous

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 19th March

### Where's my Thing

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 20th March

### Salvador Charlie

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 20th March

### Werther's Original

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 26th March

### Hazy Shade

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 27th March

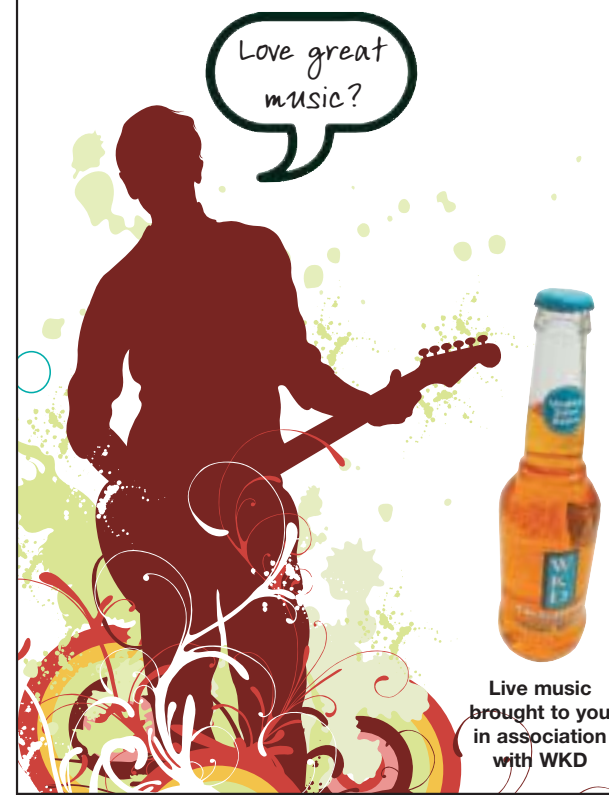
### Left of the dial

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th March

### Lead Gremlin

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## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No125

#### EASY



#### MEDIUM



#### HARD



### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No125

ACROSS: 8 Middle East 6 Aqua 9 Macaw  
10 Tube 11 Rand 13 Idle speculation 14  
Yearbook 16 Oblige 18 Remedy 19 Washed-  
up 22 Summer residence 24 Rite 25 Judo  
26 Axing 27 Ezra 28 Hard-headed. DOWN:  
1 Mummify 2 Ducal 3 Lowest bidder 4  
Entrepot 5 Subdue 7 Qualified 8 Al dente 12  
Carbohydrate 15 Alma mater 17 Password  
18 Reserve 20 Pledged 21 Trauma 23 Naiad.

### QUICK SOLUTION No126

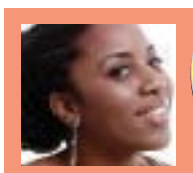
Caesura 21 Unusual 25 Cha  
Embankments 18 Ramrod 19 Cushion 20  
7 Zagreb 4 Doc 5 Persian Gulf 6 Attempt  
3 Cardiac 26 Inescapable. DOWN: 2 Vegetal  
Lump sum 23 Flexure 24 Emotion 25  
cabinet 16 Bow 17 Sir 19 Conjunction 22  
Rat race 12 Untwine 14 Immortal 15 Cold  
ACROSS: 1 Avocado pear 9 Agate 10

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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## WOMEN seeking men

**MATCH OF THE DAY!** Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft 2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

**LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!** 25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 32-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

**NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pop, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

**SOUND GOOD?** Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, ygho, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

**FANCY A CUDDLE?** Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

**IS ANYONE OUT THERE?** 31yr old easygoing, independent female, W/LTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879391

**COULD I BE THE ONE?** Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a time who enjoys walks, going out, me and into and much more. Maidstone. Box 464635

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

**A FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Prince. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

**GROW OLD WITH ME** Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

**SEIZE THE DAY** Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine adove for friendship and more. Box 428666

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

**CUTE AS CAN BE** Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

**AN AFRICAN DIAMOND** 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

**SHOW ME HEAVEN** Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608



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Mobile: Register your number with us & send by MMS to 07786 203 777.  
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MMS - network charges apply.

**FROM ME TO YOU** Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

**CALL ME** Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145

**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, W/LTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, W/LTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

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**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL** Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS** Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102

**SWEET AS HONEY** Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curly single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

**STAY TRUE** Attractive, curly, single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 833562

**HERE AND NOW** Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

**LOVELY BUBBLY** Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100

**MEANT TO BE?** Very honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5ft7, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, and long term relationship. Rochester. Box 855449

**NOTHING VENTURED...** Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

**TAKE IT EASY** Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and LTR. Seaford. Box 444366

**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE** Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced, and happy, 5ft 7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 is a must. Maidstone. Box 866380

**ANY TAKERS?** Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

**THE RIGHT FIT** Big lady (51), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862888

**JUST IMAGINE** Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 833562

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You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!** Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

**SMART MOVE** Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

**MUSIC TO MY EARS** Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 855760

**PISCES OR CAPRICORN?** Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 482420

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

**SHOW YOU CARE** Early 60's lady, 52", blonde, blue eyes, likes affection, meals out, cinema, looking for a loving, non-smoker gent in the Brighton area. Box 466036

**SAY YES!** Brighton lass, 61, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60's music and going to the theatre. Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107

**ONLY LOVE** Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

**AYLESFORD ROMANCE** Hi my name's Mary, 62, looking for friendship with a kind, honest man. I like walking, meals out and holidays...how about we have a coffee? Box 866080

**LET ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

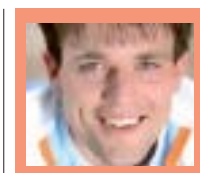
**SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...** Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

**FIGHTING FIT?** Very young 64 year old lady, loves socialising, walks, music, dogs; seeks intelligent, unpretentious ex-forces/fireman male? For committed relationship. Les please leave contact number. Box 462717

**Women seeking women**

**TRUE ROMANCE** Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy. 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman. I like nights in/out etc. Whitstable. Box 464494

**TAKE A CHANCE** Honest female, 43, 5ft2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester. Box 466078



## MEN seeking women

**WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET** Single dad, 34, 5ft7, brown hair/dark eyes. Hoping to meet a nice woman. I'm laid back and wear my heart on my sleeve. Chatham. Box 464598

**BOTTLE OF WINE** Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

**DOWN BY THE BEACH** Hi I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar girl to find love with. Box 449844

**MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN** Seeking genuine lady, I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

**THE GOOD LIFE** Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113

**BURSTING WITH LOVE** Shy 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647

**MAKE ME LAUGH** Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship, Maidstone. Box 464266

**FISHING & CAMPING!** Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

**SHY AT FIRST** Caring loving and genuine guy, hard working and shy at times. I'm 40, slim build, 5ft10, blue eyes, short hair, seeking genuine lady in Kent. Box 465529

**FORECAST?** 38yr old male with brown hair, big smile, big heart, and big personality seeks caring and affectionate lady for love in all weathers! Box 434270

**MAKE YOUR MARK** Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

**TO ENJOY LIFE** Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377

**LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE!** I have, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317

**ETERNAL FLAME** Nick, 41, 6ft, slim, dark hair/blue eyes, likes cinema, country pubs and socialising with friends, looking for a kind, caring and considerate female, 35-45. Box 450339

**LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR** Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750

**BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY** Gillingham male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate! Box 465158

**SIMILAR? LOOKING FOR LOVE?** Slim Kent man, 44, dark hair and eyes, loves music, swims and walks, looking for lady to take me as I am. Box 451474

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**ALONG THE SHORE** Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'8", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817

**A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE!** Single guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131

**TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP** Hard-working, true gent, 44, reliable, trusting, loving, genuine, enjoys sports, cars, socialising, music, films, seeks oriental or black love of his life. Box 451917

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON** Athletic male, 43, 6ft, brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoy all the fine things in life, W/LTM a caring and loving female for a LTR. Box 444794

**TRY ANYTHING ONCE** Tall chap, 44, medium build. Interests: walking, reading, swimming. I would love to meet a nice, honest and caring lady. Box 444566

**BIG DEAL IN DEAL** Warm, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

**WITTY ACTIVE**, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

**TAKE MY BREATH AWAY!** Loving single dad, 45, loves his pubs and clubs and running, keeping fit, slim, medium height, seeks similar for mutual fun and companionship... Box 450185

**ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS** Single 47, 5ft8, been hurt in the past, works full time, looking for a Sussex based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 466082

**GAINING CONFIDENCE** 47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life. Seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463623

**TAKE MY HAND** Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50. Deal, Kent. Box 460441

**YOUNG AT HEART** Sincere genuine man, 47, but looks younger, 5ft6, cropped hair, blue eyes, single, likes cycling nights in/out, seeks younger female for fun, friendship. LTR. Margate... Box 867708

**GET BACK TO ME** Good looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

**THE START OF SOMETHING LASTING?** Hi I'm 48, hard working, live Eastbourne, seeking female for friendship and companionship and seeing what might happen! Box 447893

**THE ROMANTIC KING** Easy-going professional 50yr old man, looking for a woman for friendship, maybe more, enjoys most things in life, especially holidays abroad and romantic dinners. Box 452860

**LET'S SEE WHERE IT GOES...** Gentle kind male, 48, 5ft9, medium build, W/LTM nice, attractive, friendly, fun to be with lady who likes going out and socialising, for friendship. Box 442869

**MAYBE BABY** Kind intelligent man, 52, 5ft7, average build, grey-green eyes, enjoys reading, walks and meeting people, W/LTM similar attributed lady for friendship, maybe more? Folkestone. Box 466867





## PROPERTY NEWS



### Housing market frozen as snow hits county

THE recent snowfall and icy conditions have affected the mortgage market, putting a hold on many transactions, according to one industry expert.

All aspects of the sector came to a standstill, according to Catherine Hearnden, director of financial advice firm MyMortgageDirect.

"Surveyors weren't able to get properties, people weren't able to view, estate agents were closed, solicitors weren't available," she explained.

Traditionally, warmer weather sees housing activity pick up, with Easter a key time for people to start looking at houses, the mortgage expert continued.

Figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors revealed that house prices rose again in January but buyer interest and new instructions to sell fell. Newly-agreed sales fell for the first time in 10 months amid the winter conditions.

### Lending shortage puts squeeze on landlords

A TOTAL of 46,000 homes were repossessed in 2009, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders – a rise of 15 per cent on the previous year and the highest number since 1995.

"Lending continues to be scarce and there seems to be no sign of banks relaxing lending," says David Plaister, managing director of property letting experts LetAssured.

"With the number of repossessions at a 14-year high, the banks' ability to lend is entrenched, and there will continue to be a shortage of funds for landlords in 2010.

"It's a shame that the number of repossessions is causing banks to hold back on lending for good landlords who can afford to borrow.

"Good landlords should be allowed to grow their portfolios. House prices are ideal so it's a great time to buy, but there's still no finance available."



# There's room for optimism as the price rise continues

■ BY NICK AMES

LAST month saw house prices rise for the seventh consecutive time, according to the Halifax House Price Index.

The increase was a moderate 0.6 per cent and takes the average price to 9.9 per cent above its trough in April 2009.

The first weeks of February have also seen increased activity in the market causing optimistic forecasts from analysts about the coming months.

According to the Halifax, the Bank of England's interest rate reductions have boosted housing demand, which, coupled with low supply, pushed up prices.

It suggested that house prices would remain flat during 2010, as more people put their properties up for sale.

Currently, the average house price is £169,777, up £15,287 since April last year, while further property figures from Halifax have revealed that house prices increased by 105 per cent during the past ten years.

The Noughties saw prices go up by more in real terms than in any other decade during the last 50 years.

In the latest survey, the Rightmove House Price Index for February 2010 reveals the largest monthly increase since April 2007 and represents a year-on-year increase of 6.1 per cent.

Sellers appear to be hoping for a prosperous new year, and are asking an average of 3.2 per cent more than last month.

This average rise is surprising, given the difficult UK and global economic picture, say experts.

However property in popular locations, such as Kent, remains in short supply, supporting upwards price pressure.

Miles Shipside, commercial director of Rightmove said: "A price jump of more than



three per cent is more comparable to the pre-credit-crunch boom-times.

"Sellers are setting their sights higher, and some agents are going along with them in order to win scarce instructions.

"Property for sale remains scarce in popular areas, but new supply to the market has to be priced at what buyers are willing to pay."

Rightmove site traffic is regarded across the market as a good barometer of prospective

buyer intent, with January proving to be a record month.

Pages viewed were up 29 per cent on January 2009, at 710 million.

January and February are the traditional time for bargain hunters to start shopping around, although analysts say with prices recovering there will be fewer bargains to be had this year, and agents and sellers may have to work harder to put a deal together.

## Don't let fraudsters steal your home

THE Land Registry has launched a Protect your Property Campaign to help homeowners who are most at risk of fraud.

Via the Central Office of Information's register of 6,500 organisations they will be distributing a Protect your Property leaflet giving information on how people, especially those in vulnerable groups, can protect their most valuable asset.

The leaflet can also be downloaded from the Land Registry website.

Peter Rodd, a Partner at Thanet based Solicitors, Boys & Maughan said: "The Land Registry's campaign provides homeowners

with information to help them protect their property.

"If you are mortgage-free, no longer live at your property or are a buy-to-let landlord, you should make sure the Land Registry has your details, so they can contact you when someone makes an enquiry about your property."

Last year an attempted fraud was discovered and prevented by the Land Registry because, among other anti-fraud procedures, the owners of the property that was being "stolen" had kept their address for service up to date.

The couple had paid off the mortgage on a

property they were letting and lived at another address.

Because they lived elsewhere, they'd supplied their home address as well as that of the let property as contact addresses for the Land Registry.

Fraudsters impersonating the couple tried to change the named owners on the Land Registry record so they could take over ownership of the let property, but the Land Registry contacted the couple immediately at both addresses and they were able to object to the transfer of ownership and prevent their property from being stolen.

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**Kennington** £290,000  
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# Connells

<b>Willesborough</b> <b>£125,000</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First floor conversion flat</li> <li>Open plan living area</li> <li>Allocated parking space</li> <li>Double glazed &amp; central heated</li> </ul>	<b>Kingsnorth</b> <b>£150,000</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two bedroom end terrace</li> <li>Open plan living area</li> <li>Two allocated parking spaces</li> <li>Central heated. Double glazed</li> </ul>	<b>Willesborough</b> <b>£150,000</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three bedroom semi detached</li> <li>120ft rear garden</li> <li>Double glazed &amp; central heated</li> <li>No onward chain</li> </ul>	<b>Ashford</b> <b>£189,950</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three bedroom semi detached</li> <li>Favoured corner plot</li> <li>Integral garage</li> <li>Modern fitted kitchen</li> </ul>	<b>Ashford</b> <b>£190,000</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three bed link semi detached</li> <li>En-suite to master bedroom</li> <li>Spacious lounge/diner</li> <li>Modern fitted kitchen</li> </ul>	<b>Ashford</b> <b>£234,999</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two bedroom detached bungalow</li> <li>Modern fitted kitchen/diner</li> <li>Large front &amp; rear gardens</li> <li>Off road parking. Workshop</li> </ul>
<b>Ashford</b> <b>£159,995</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location, location</li> <li>Delightful modern terraced home</li> <li>Prime cul-de-sac position</li> <li>Ever popular development</li> </ul>	<b>Kennington</b> <b>£155,000</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two bedroom house</li> <li>Lounge with french doors</li> <li>Downstairs cloakroom</li> <li>No onward chain</li> </ul>	<b>Kingsnorth</b> <b>£162,950</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three bedroom end of terrace</li> <li>Lounge/diner &amp; conservatory</li> <li>Kitchen &amp; cloakroom/w.c</li> <li>Family bathroom/w.c</li> </ul>	<b>Kennington</b> <b>£329,995</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four bedrooms (master with en-suite)</li> <li>Guest bedroom (with en-suite)</li> <li>Double aspect lounge</li> <li>Separate dining room</li> </ul>	<b>Ashford</b> <b>£187,500</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 bedrooms</li> <li>Conservatory</li> <li>Garage and driveway</li> <li>Gas heating and double glazing</li> </ul>	<b>Kingsnorth</b> <b>£197,500</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 bedrooms</li> <li>12' x 12' conservatory</li> <li>Gas heating and double glazing</li> <li>Gardens to front and rear</li> </ul>

Tel: 0845 8732418 • ashford@connells.co.uk

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Ashford Branch



# Connells

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LANDLORDS

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- 50ft Rear Garden

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**£169,995****Ryars**

- 4 Bed Detached Period Home
- Complete Refurbishment Within
- Approximately 1/2 Acre Grounds

Enquire West Malling

**£575,000****Ditton**

- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
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- Streamside Location

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**£499,995****Mereworth**

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**£189,995****East Malling**

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Enquire West Malling

**£170,000****Sutton Valence**

- Two Bedroom Cottage
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Enquire Headcorn

**£159,995****Maidstone**

- 1 Bed Top Floor Apartment
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- Bus Service to Village

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- Three Bedroom Family Home
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- Driveway and Garage

Enquire Lenham

**£210,000****Larkfield**

- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
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## MOTORS NEWS



### Jaguar leaping ahead after its 75th birthday

JAGUAR is celebrating 75 years and a return to the roaring form of its 1960s heyday – the big cat launches an all-new XJ flagship (pictured) soon.

This will epitomise escape from an automotive 'Groundhog Day' of continually attempting to recreate the styling of those Beatles era icons.

Sir William Lyons founded Swallow Sidecars in 1922, but re-named it Jaguar in 1935, to launch the much grander SS 100 sports car, following up with icons like the D and E-Types and original XJ saloon.



### Juke is no boring box

NISSAN has evolved rapidly from being the 'boring' car brand to the 'bonkers' one.

The Japanese marque now has an array of eye-catchers from the popular Qashqai crossover, through the intriguing Cube city car/MPV to the GT-R affordable supercar.

But even these are upstaged by a new supermini crossover, the Juke – to be built at Nissan Sunderland.

It should provoke much discussion before arriving in October through its bug-eyed funky chunky styling, designed to appeal particularly to the 'bloke market' in an increasingly effete sector.



### A 'Lion king' in waiting

PEUGEOT launches its stunning new RCZ sports car in May, but it has already won an international internet poll – 'most beautiful car of 2009'.

A dream car at a near everyday price, the French lion brand will sell it here for £20,450 and undercut cheapest versions of the rival Audi TT by some £6,000 while offering more standard kit.

The sumptuous interior of last year's 308CC also suggests Peugeot has the handle on the cabin quality needed to complement the RCZ's stunning looks.



**MARQUE OF RESPECT:** Hyundai have given their Santa Fe a facelift for 2010, and made it even better value than previous versions with only diesel options starting at £21,495

# Hyundai's Santa Fe now proud to wear its badge

## ROAD TEST HYUNDAI SANTA FE

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

contemporary 'carbon black' and everything feels robust and of decent quality, with many stowage places. Standard kit includes reversing sensors, air con and a sound system with aux/USB connection and full iPod control.

Unfortunately, the indicator stalk is mounted to the right – unlike most of the marque's other models – but this is a small minus against the big plus from a new all-aluminium 194bhp 2.2-litre diesel in this revised car.

Even with the slightly deadening effect of the six-speed auto 'box on the test car (Premium trim five-seat auto £24,745), the Santa Fe feels lively for its size, hitting 62mph in 10.2 seconds while averaging nearly 40mpg – 41.5mpg in manual format.

Electronic stability control (ESP) is standard and handling is impressive; the car's height is not accompanied by unacceptable leaning on bends or, at the other extreme, a hard ride.

Of course, it is more 'soft' than off-roader; but the Santa Fe should tackle rough ground well; it runs mostly in two-wheel drive but switches extra traction to rear wheels when a loss of grip is sensed. If you are really mired though, full four-wheel drive can be selected by a switch on the dash.



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With a class leading 1,865 litres of boot space, colour touch screen satellite navigation, bluetooth, and full leather upholstery as standard\*, no wonder it was voted Top Gear's Luxury Car of the Year 2009. Starting from £17,715 RRP.

What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



## Octavia, Fabia + Roomster Happy Scrapping.

No VAT. Ends soon. Don't miss out.

We've reduced the prices of all Fabia and Octavia until 31st March 2010, which means it's like not having to pay the VAT. That's a saving of up to £2,110.43<sup>†</sup> on a Fabia and £3,388.30<sup>†</sup> on an Octavia.



Time is running out to get up to **£3,500\*** off a new Škoda.

### Used Car Section

#### Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance DSG 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 34,596 miles. £8,995

#### Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 46,500 miles. £8,995

#### Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic DSG 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Silver Cloth interior, 25,669 miles. £8,495

#### SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Nayara Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 20,695 miles. £8,495

#### Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 24,700 miles. £7,995

#### Skoda Fabia 1.9 TD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Sports Cross-tuck interior, 42,000 miles. £7,995

#### Skoda Roomster 1.4 16v 3 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Corrida Red with a Ivory Cloth interior, 42,100 miles. £7,995

#### Peugeot 307 CC 2.0 16V 180

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#### Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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#### Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Silver Lightning Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,364 miles. £6,995

#### Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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#### Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

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#### Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate

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#### SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV

Finished in Pearl Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 92,500 miles. £6,295

#### SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 40,055 miles. £6,295

#### Vauxhall Astra 1.8 2-Door Convertible

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#### Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16V Design 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Bosa Nove Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 26,500 miles. £5,795

#### Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 Special 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Adriatic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £4,995

#### Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet

Finished in Artic Steel Metallic with a Grey Cloth - Velour interior, 86,467 miles. £4,495

#### Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback

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#### Fiat Panda 1.1 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Mambo Yellow with a Grey Cloth interior, 52,474 miles. £3,795

#### Fiat Punto 1.4 Eleganza 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Scilla Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 52,364 miles. £3,795

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Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. <sup>†</sup>Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. \*£2,500 saving off the RRP is available across the full Skoda range with up to an additional £1,000 off the RRP on selected Octavia models dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 29th February 2000 when traded-in against a new car subject to conditions. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer is subject to availability and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. At participating retailers only. Please see you local retailer for full terms and conditions. Prices are accurate at time of print. Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. \*Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.



## USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### SKODA FABIA



BADGE snobs have had Skoda jibes stuffed down their throats as the Czech brand continues to score in customer satisfaction surveys – its cars are cheap to repair too. The sweet handling Fabia comes only in five-door hatch and ugly estate formats, but there is plenty of other choice on engine and trim – there is even an impressive diesel vRS hot hatch version. The VW-derived diesels are economy kings, but do not ignore the cheaper to buy petrol models.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### HYUNDAI GETZ



REPLACED last year by the stylish i20, the Getz signalled Hyundai's arrival on the European market, with a thoroughly modern supermini. It does not excel in any area really, but neither does the Korean car fall short anywhere either. Sold in three and five-door form with a five-year warranty, it has some engines in road tax band-B, including an efficient diesel. Securing a good deal – with some warranty intact – should not be hard either, though reliability is not a worry.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### NISSAN MICRA



BORING Nissan? Well, the current Micra has blown that myth apart (pictured). This is the supermini that says you don't have to conform to style to be space-efficient and you don't need a French badge to be chic – although Renault now owns Nissan. The Micra still turns heads and looks 'right' in three or five-door form. It's affordable and reliable, available with excellent diesels and marketed with stylish trim in the dearer versions. There are even some performance models.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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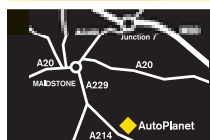

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Closing date 26th February 2010.



## We require part time or full time COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

for Ashford Area and the Marsh. Applicants must have their own vehicle. We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends. We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

**Please call 01797 361889 for an application form or E-mail: [countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk)**

## ABC Electrically Biased Site Supervisor

required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field. Negotiated Package.

Computer experience essential. Must be willing to work away from home. E-mailed C.V. applications only to [smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk](mailto:smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk) NO AGENCIES, NO TELEPHONE CALLS

## EXPERIENCED DISPENSER

Required for busy GP surgery in Littlebourne (must have NVQ II in pharmaceutical services or equivalent qualification) Hours negotiable.

Please phone 01227 721561 for informal chat and/or job description.

Excellent terms and conditions. Friendly working environment. Applications in writing to Practice Manager, Bridge Health Centre, Patricxbourne Road, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5BL.



2 Raywood Office Complex  
Leacon Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent. TN27 0ET  
T: 01222 713813 F: 01233 713847  
E: [info@kentplayclubs.org.uk](mailto:info@kentplayclubs.org.uk)  
W: [www.kentplayclubs.org.uk](http://www.kentplayclubs.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1104141  
Registered Company No: 4649786

## Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays? Salary & hours negotiable.

This project is supported by BBC Children in Need. All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check. Contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack 01233 713813 or email: [info@kentplayclubs.org.uk](mailto:info@kentplayclubs.org.uk) Closing date for applications **5th March 2010**.

## Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment? Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.

Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club. Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.

If you are interested, please contact Kent Play Clubs for an application pack. 01233 713813 or email: [info@kentplayclubs.org.uk](mailto:info@kentplayclubs.org.uk) This project is supported by the European Social Fund. All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check. Closing date for applications **5th March 2010**.

## Black Tie Foods Ltd

### Sales People

required  
No experience necessary.  
Full training and vehicle provided.

**Call 01732 760484**

## White Horse

Rupert St, London W1  
**Live-In Management Couple**  
to run exciting traditional pub off Shaftesbury Ave.  
**Full training given 07770 582656**

## DENTAL NURSE

REQUIRED FOR PRESTON HOUSE DENTAL IN SANDWICH

### FULL/ PART TIME

E MAIL: [enquiries@prestonhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@prestonhouse.co.uk)  
Tel: **01304 621 621** or **612075**



## Charlier Construction Ltd CARPENTER

Qualified carpenter with sound working knowledge of their trade is required immediately. Applicants having own transport and CSCS card will have an advantage.

Tel: 01303 268211 Fax: 01303 268661  
8-12 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BE  
[www.charlierconstruction.com](http://www.charlierconstruction.com)

## RMN Full/ Part time/Bank



Applecroft Care Home LTD are currently seeking enthusiastic and motivated staff for their 75 bedded EMI/Nursing Home in River, Dover. We are looking for Nurses who have experience of working with elderly residents with Dementia. This is an exciting opportunity to use your nursing skills within a supportive and flexible team environment.

Salary negotiable depending on experience with the opportunity for promotion within the company. The successful applicants must have a valid NMC PIN.

**For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331 or Email [kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk](mailto:kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk)**



Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

**We have the following vacancy at our Chatham New Bridge House Centre:**

## SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR (MATERNITY COVER)

£19,779.00p.a

Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme (60/40) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices.

We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check

**Contact [colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk](mailto:colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk) or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.**

**Closing date is 8th March 2010.**

## Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Treatment Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA • MATERNITY COVER (MIN 6 MONTHS)  
30 HOURS PER WEEK • ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM PRO RATA • BASED CANTERBURY / THANET

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

This post will involve one to one work with young drug and alcohol users (aged 10 - 18) experiencing complex difficulties. These may include concerns around mental health, safeguarding, homelessness, offending, and chaotic substance misuse issues.

Covering Canterbury and Thanet, we are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 639.

Closing date: Monday 8 March 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)





### The Boulders Ltd

As a growing childcare organisation we are looking to recruit an experienced

## Registered Manager

for our 6 bedded Children's Home in the South London area.

You will need to be able to demonstrate your experience and passion in working with young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person with excellent organisational, interpersonal and multitasking skills who will lead and manage their team of support workers.

The ideal candidate will hold a NVQ 3, NVQ 4 or Registered Manager Award, Children and Young People (or equivalent) or be working towards this qualification and also hold a full driving licence.

This is a full time position and the successful applicant will be expected to work alongside a rota and cover on call responsibilities as required.

The post is subject to an enhanced CRB Disclosure.

We offer a competitive salary, excellent supervision and Training package allowing the opportunity for personal development.

For further information and to download an Application Form please visit our website [www.theboulders.com](http://www.theboulders.com) or contact Margaret on 01795 845810

Closing date for Application Forms 1st March 2010

Interviews for those shortlisted will commence 8th March 2010

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

## Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

£20,710 - £26,839 NHS AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 5  
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM  
FULL-TIME 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK  
EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED  
BASED IN SITTINGBOURNE

Are you an Occupational Therapist or RMN with CBT experience or a qualified Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP) looking to develop your skills in psychological services? We require an experienced PWP to work within our established IAPT low intensity team in Sittingbourne. You will offer low intensity CBT based interventions to adults experiencing mild mental health issues. You should have a clear understanding of CBT approaches and techniques, low intensity/high volume working, telephone work with clients and a knowledge of current NICE and IAPT guidance. Ref: 616.

Closing date: 26 February 2010. Interview date: 10 March 2010.

## Cognitive Behavioural Therapist, Couples or Family Therapist – Step 3 High Intensity

£29,789 - £39,273 NHS AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 7  
(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)  
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM  
(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)  
FULL-TIME 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK OR PART-TIME 18.75 HOURS PER WEEK  
EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED  
BASED IN RAMSGATE

You will join our IAPT service providing high intensity CBT/Couples/Family interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT/Couples/Family therapy to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent.

A Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Couples or Family Therapy is essential, and you must be accredited or working towards accreditation with the BABCP, or similar. To discuss this role informally, please contact the Service Manager, Lynda Burr on 01843 593832 (Monday, Wednesday or Friday). Ref: 622.

Closing date: 26th February 2010.  
Interviews will take place in Ramsgate.

For both posts, an application form and job description can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)



## HAWKINGE PARISH COUNCIL

Assistant to the Parish Clerk

£16,054 - £18,453 20 hours (pro rata)



Hawkinge Parish Council is a busy local council where an exciting opportunity has arisen for a part-time Assistant to the Parish Clerk. The hours are 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday and 9.30am - 1pm Tuesday to Friday, based in Hawkinge Community Centre.

The role, working for the Clerk and with Councillors is interesting and diverse, covering a range of Council services and a variety of administrative duties. The postholder will be required to attend some Council Meetings.

The successful applicant will be educated to GCSE level or equivalent, a committed team player, and have experience in a busy office environment. A sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential, as is a 'can-do' positive attitude.

For an application form contact Tina Wiles at [Clerk@hawkingepc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@hawkingepc.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is Friday 19 March 2010



## Experienced and Trainee Estate Agents

Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our sales team in Kent.

If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can do' attitude, good communication skills, of smart appearance and have sales experience then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment.

Please email your CV to:

[sarah.mcglinchey@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk](mailto:sarah.mcglinchey@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk)

*Bairstow Eves Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer*



Saulfon Pharmaceuticals Limited is an expanding independent manufacturing company producing contact lenses and solutions for markets around the world. We currently have the following vacancies:-

### ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

You will have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and possess the 17th edition certification. Experience working in a manufacturing environment as a qualified maintenance electrician is required and mechanical experience will be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

### MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

This role encompasses preventative and routine maintenance of production equipment, buildings and the installation of new equipment in a manufacturing environment. The successful candidate should possess at least 5 years of previous engineering experience in this environment. Turning/welding skills would be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work for the above 2 positions will be Flexible 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### PRODUCTION SCHEDULER

The role will involve creating and maintaining weekly production schedules for contact lenses aftercare solutions based on the ERP suggestions, making the most effective use of resources, whilst meeting agreed customer service and stock levels. You will liaise daily with the production, sales departments and other members of the planning team.

The ideal candidate will have 3 years experience in a similar role, have good excel skills and experience of working with ERP systems. You must be a good team player, have good communication skills and be able to work on your own initiative. The position is based at the production site in Ashford in Kent. Hours of work will be 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

For an application form, please telephone 01233 646599 or alternatively send a detailed CV, quoting your current salary to:-

HR Department – Recruitment, Saulfon Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent - TN24 8EP alternatively email: [SimonIK@saulfon.co.uk](mailto:SimonIK@saulfon.co.uk)

## Vehicle Sales Administrator

Required for our Welling branch preferably with previous experience or knowledge of Kerridge/ADP computer system. An enquiring and accurate approach with initiative will be needed for this position. Training will be given. Salary negotiable.

To become part of our winning team, please send your CV (in strictest confidence) to:

Mrs O King

70-88 Park View Road, Welling, Kent. DA16 1SF  
Or email: [careers@wjking.com](mailto:careers@wjking.com)

**W. J. King**



## Presland Care Limited

## Support Workers

required to work in

Maidstone and the surrounding areas  
Hours: Full-time, part-time, as and when basis.  
Car driver with own transport essential.

Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes.

For an application form please contact  
Jane or Rita on 01634 673 333

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references.



Due to the continued expansion of the Wilmoths Citroen Group, we have the rare opportunity for a **Service Receptionist**.

With currently five Citroen garages across the south east, our latest branch at Maidstone, after its first full year of trading, needs to continue its progression by acquiring an enthusiastic and self motivated individual who wishes to be in control of their own future.

An aptitude towards wanting to succeed is what we are seeking as full training will be provided to the right individual through in house one to one, manufacturer courses and independent motor trade associates. We are adamant that the successful candidate will be someone who has a clear understanding of the importance of our clientele to us.

If you feel that you have the will and the drive to succeed where others would not, then please send your CV with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department,  
Wilmoths Citroën Maidstone, Sutton Road, Parkwood,  
Maidstone, Kent ME15 8RD  
or e-mail: [service@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk](mailto:service@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk)



Abbey Court School, a 'special' school  
and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

## TEMPORARY TEACHER FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

STARTING 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL UNTIL 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2010  
(FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

MPS + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN.

Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP  
(Tel: 01634 338236)



**BeneCare Children's Services**

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS HERNE BAY AND WHISTABLE AREAS  
SALARY RANGE £11,620 - £19,500 PA PLUS INCREMENTS.

WE REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS - ALL LEVELS UP TO AND INCLUDING DEPUTY MANAGERS - TO WORK IN OUR HOMES.

QUALIFICATIONS NVQ 3 OR EQUIVALENT PREFERRED. HOWEVER TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR APPLICANTS WITH EVIDENT POTENTIAL AND/OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.

CONTACT OUR OFFICE MANAGER JANN ASLETT ON 01732 740088  
EMAIL: headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk  
www.benecareltd.co.uk

**GOLDSPRING JONES**

**Margate based criminal lawyers seek a LEGAL SECRETARY**  
for a full time position

Good audio typing, spelling and telephone manner required.

Please send CV FAO  
Miss S Sutherland  
Goldspring Jones Solicitors Limited  
170 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Kent, CT9 2QT  
No agencies please

**Thanet is a beautiful place to work**

Thanet is a great place to live and work. Our historic seaside towns of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs are rich in heritage and opportunity. From the multi-million pound Turner Contemporary Gallery, the new fast speed rail link to London, and the popular Westwood Cross shopping centre - this is an exciting time to join Thanet District Council. We are determined to improve the quality of life for local people. We believe that by listening to local people, working in active partnership and by being prepared to do things in an innovative way we can accelerate improvement and best meet the challenges ahead.

**Housing Improvement Officer (two vacancies)**  
**Salary: £26,940 – £30,738 per annum**

The aim of the team is to improve the condition of housing in Thanet, so that people can live in safe and secure housing free from risks that might impair their health or well being.

We have 2 Housing Improvement Officer posts available. The main duties of these posts will be to meet the statutory duties of the Council with regard to Private Sector Housing, by enforcing national and local standards in housing and to implement a range of private sector housing initiatives, which provide solutions to local housing problems through education, persuasion and the provision of incentives.

One of the posts will focus on enforcement activity, whilst the other post will focus upon pro-active projects and policy work. Please ensure that you indicate which type of post you would prefer when applying.

You will be enthusiastic, hardworking, and be a team player. You will have relevant work experience in private sector housing, building surveying or environmental health and knowledge of legislation relating to Private Sector Housing. You must also have relevant qualifications in environmental health, building surveying or equivalent. Ideally you will be certified in the HHSRS but this is not essential as training will be given. For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Tanya Wenham Housing Improvement Manager on 01843 577006 or Richard Hopkins Senior Housing Improvement Officer on 01843 577402.

**The closing date for these positions is: Friday 5 March 2010**  
**Interviews will be held: 16,17 and 18 March 2010**

All posts include generous annual leave, flexible working (some posts excluded), a 37-hour week, subsidised bus pass, as well as access to the local government final salary pension scheme.

For an application form and job description for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on (01843) 577175 (24 hours), e-mail jobs.hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk or, download an application form from www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs. Applications to be returned to: East Kent H R Partnership, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

Thanet District Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to employing people with disabilities. Any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for the posts will be guaranteed an interview.

**Outgoing? Determined? Tenacious?**  
**Great Communicator?**  
**Self Motivated?**

If this describes you then you could be the person we are looking for to join our sales team at KOS Media as a

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Field Based Medway Area**

We are looking to recruit a highly driven, confident, self motivated team player, who is able to work under pressure to deadline and target. You will be working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. You will be building long lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent. Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and used to liaising with some of Kent's largest companies and organisations. A Full driving licence is essential.

KOS Media is one of the fastest-growing, independent regional media companies in Britain which publishes **Kent on Saturday** the award winning **Kent on Sunday** and ten **YourLocal** titles, along with seasonal and annual magazines.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target related bonus, plus five weeks annual leave. If you feel you can meet and exceed these qualities and expectations then please send your CV to:

**Ynez Coton, Associate Director,**  
KOS Media Ltd.,  
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,  
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent. TN25 6SR  
Or e-mail ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

**KOS media**

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POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

**NEWS**

KOS Media is looking to recruit a news editor and reporter for the Midweek series of newspapers based at our offices just outside of Ashford.

**News Editor**

We need a qualified senior, preferably with desk experience, who is able to lead a team including trainees for three editions. Your experience and knowledge of news gathering will be essential in helping trainees meet their potential.

Each of our local papers runs alongside its own dedicated website. You will be expected to keep the website up to date. An understanding of the changing ways people get their news now and in the future will be as important as your track record to date.

**Reporter**

We are looking for an experienced reporter to work on one of our 11 Midweek newspapers. You should be able to demonstrate an ability to work quickly and accurately. The website will be as important to you as the newspaper and you should understand the changes that are going on in the way people get their news and how it is presented. You must be able to drive and have a car, and you will be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses.

**Apply with your CV or letter to:**

**Gary Wright**  
Group Editor Midweeks  
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,  
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR  
email: gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk

**Closing date for applications 28th February 2010.**

**KOS media**

Award winning publications  
www.kentnews.co.uk

**HIGH CALIBRE PA/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

**Required for the Director of the London Based Commercial Company**

**Salary: £19,000 per year (OTE up to £37,000)**

**Contract: Permanent corporate**

**Working from Home. Full Apple Mac book and iPhone to be provided.**

This is a highly prestigious role working for a very well respected businessman in London. Working as part of an incredibly slick and polished team.

Based in London SW1, we are looking for an experienced and traditional PA/Executive Assistant to support our team. You will be looking after a huge client database, required to arrange meetings and plan presentations, also providing support to other sales consultants. Liaising with high profile clients within the UK and able to develop strong working relationships.

You will have had previous experience where you have supported someone with very high expectations. The role involves upmost discretion as you are dealing with high-net worth clients on a day-to-day basis. You will have excellent attention to detail, a well-spoken telephone manner and have good administration and secretarial experience.

Please send your CV to: admin@redstarfireandsecurity.com  
F.A.O Lee Reid

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## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

**Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Ref: P0678**

**Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333**

**Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering Ref: P0219**

**Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum**

**Medway**

We are looking to recruit outstanding individuals to teach and participate in the development of programmes across the Faculty of Advanced Construction and Engineering which includes Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering disciplines. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in one or more of the above Engineering specialism's. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidates will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

**Hourly Paid Lecturer in Foundation Learning**

**Ref: SE567**

**Hourly rate: £22.64- £27.46**

**Maidstone/Medway**

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of the Life and Work Skills for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, a patient and mature attitude and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

**Kitchen Assistant Ref: P0049**

**25 hours per week, 38 weeks per year**

**Salary: £14,588- £16,638 pro-rata**

**Maidstone**

We are looking to recruit a Kitchen Assistant to provide kitchen support for our Apprentice Restaurant and to help both students and Lecturers in the Catering department. A background in catering is essential, plus basic food hygiene and Health and Safety certificates.

**Closing date: Friday 5 March 2010**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



### Abbey Court School

**"WE GROW PEOPLE"**

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

**We are currently looking for a  
PART TIME CLERICAL OFFICER**

**Medway Scale D2, points 12 – 21**

**£15,039 - £19,126 (pro rata)**

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 4-19 years with severe learning difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 20 hours per week (5 x 4 hour mornings), term time only to undertake reception/administrative duties at the school.

**We are looking for somebody with:**

- Good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- Experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- Knowledge of school office work desirable
- Enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

**Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.**

**Closing Date: 5th March 2010**

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester,

Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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this section

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## CRICKET

Picture ADY KERRY



GO AHEAD: Redevelopment of St Lawrence

## Kent ground plans reignited by new housing partner

THE £8.2 million redevelopment of Kent's St Lawrence Ground is firmly back on track after the club announced a new housing partner this week.

The club were at the advance stages of their ambitious plans to redevelop county headquarters in Canterbury two years ago, but the credit crunch and the loss of housing partner Persimmon halted their progress.

The county have now secured a partnership with Bellway Plc who will now build on two plots of land bought from the club, on the Bat and Ball site and the county's current net practice area.

A planning application will now be submitted to Canterbury City Council, who incidentally loaned Kent £4 million to help with redevelopment costs in November, with the result expected in three months.

For the club's acting chief executive, Jamie Clifford, it heralds the end of what he admitted has been a long process.

"I'm sure it's taken a lot longer than the general public would have liked, but realistically these things take time," he said. "Effectively this has taken longer because Persimmon pulled out.

### Facilities

"We have worked on this for a while. We began this process way back when Persimmon pulled out and we put it back out to market and start the whole selection process again. It's taken longer than in an ideal world, we would have wanted."

The club hope the redevelopment, which includes a hotel, conference facilities, health and fitness centre, stand refurbishment, floodlights and hospitality boxes, will get under way during the summer, but that will be determined by Bellway, who now own the land.

Clifford said the county are looking forward to working closely with their new housing partners and feels there is finally light at the end of the tunnel, describing the housing deal as a "defining moment."

He said: "It's now up to Bellway as to when they start work and if I'm honest I don't know when that will be, but we will be encouraging them to fit it in around the summer when we have cricket on."



Picture PACINO APRILIA

**NEXT LEVEL:** Leon Camier hopes to make his debut season in the World Superbike Championship a memorable one after last season's British championship success

# World Superbikes holds no fear for impressive Camier

## SUPERBIKES

■ BY TOM HOWARD

LEON Camier is setting his sights on two points finishes from the opening round of the World Superbike Championship this weekend.

The 23-year-old reigning British Superbike champion lines up on the grid at Australia's Phillip Island circuit on Sunday for the opening round of his debut season in the world series.

The Ashford rider, who dominated the British Superbike Championship last year clinching a record 19 wins from 26 races, will face his toughest challenge yet as he comes up against the world's best riders.

Camier can expect a much tougher season compared to last year and in winter testing, has

struggled to get the best out of the new Aprilia works machine. Taking into account his pace in testing he admitted a race victory is unlikely in Australia, but remains confident he will be challenging for victories this season.

He said: "It's a dream come true to be racing in the championship as this is what I've been aiming for since I started racing. We haven't got the bike where we want it at the moment, but we will be working hard on it. Once we do that, we will be right up there and challenging.

"It's a massive step up from the British

Championship and it will be tough, but I don't fear any of the riders. I've raced against them last year and I showed what I can do. It's going to be interesting – the Ducati's look strong and so does James Toseland and Jonathan Rea. It's hard to call at the moment."

The Aprilia rider has completed six World Superbike Championship races as a wild card entry before this weekend's opening round. His best result so far has been sixth, which he achieved at Donington Park last June and at the final round of the season at Portugal's Portimao circuit in October.

Eclipsing last year's best race finish will be his first target in Australia. The first of two races from the opening round of the season begins at 1am on Sunday.

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# Nuts and Bolts fight-back to clinch a crucial victory

## FOOTBALL

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

### Ashford Town 3

Lovell 65, 82, Sherwood pen 84

### Horsham YMCA 2

Huckett pen 36, Geard 48

A SUPERB fight-back by Ashford Town earned them three vital points in their battle to avoid relegation from Ryman Division One South on Saturday.

With eight minutes left at Homelands Mitchell Sherwood was awarded a penalty and he converted it himself to turn a game Ashford had been losing 2-0 until the 65th minute on its head.

The result leaves the Nuts and Bolts 21st in the league, but just one point adrift of safety with three games in hand on the side immediately above them, Eastbourne Town.

A week after their battling win at Dulwich, Town showed their resilience to see off Horsham – the first time they have recorded back-to-back victories all season.

The sole change from the side that beat Dulwich was the return of Craig Cloke, meaning Tom Murphy dropped to the bench, and a visibly confident Town side produced some excellent football early on.

Joe Fuller had a strong shout for a penalty



**WINNER:** Mitchell Sherwood (right) who scored a late penalty to clinch a much-needed victory for Ashford

turned down in the 14th minute and Laurence Harvey, Sherwood and Cloke all went close before the visitors' Terry Dodd was awarded a spot-kick after a challenge from Harvey.

Mike Huckett converted and three minutes after the restart it was 2-0, with Terry Dodd, who some observers felt was lucky to be on the pitch after an incident with Harvey just 60 seconds earlier, turning in a cross that could have been cleared by any number of defenders.

Despite the scoreline Town were dominant

### Ashford Town starting XI



Subs used: Murphy (Cloke 80)

and their pressure finally paid off on 65 minutes, when Mark Lovell got his head to a deep free-kick to claw one back.

Visiting keeper Tony Di Bernardo kept his side in front with some heroic goalkeeping until eight minutes from time, when Danny Lye conjured a superb cross that allowed Lovell to head home the equaliser.

Almost immediately Horsham went up the other end and nearly snatched the points with a shot that cannoned back off Scott Chalmers-Stevens' crossbar, but the comeback was completed barely a minute later, when the referee awarded a penalty even the home supporters hadn't claimed.

Sherwood later revealed it was for an apparent trip, but admitted the decision was soft, something which may have been playing on his mind as he faced Di Bernardo, who has quickly developed a reputation as a penalty specialist during his brief time with Horsham.

Sherwood's kick was just hard enough to trickle over the line after Di Bernardo got a hand to it and a resurgent Ashford have renewed hope of avoiding the drop.

## FOOTBALL



Picture: iCORRUPCO

**CONFIDENT:** Steve Lovell fancied his team's chances

## Lovell says victory was always on his mind despite deficit

"NEVER in doubt" is the standard phrase used by managers when their team pulls off something dramatic, but Ashford Town boss Steve Lovell was always optimistic his side would get a result against Horsham YMCA. "When we went 2-0 down I didn't think they deserved it," he said. "But I was always confident we could get something and we proved that with the way the game turned out. In fairness we had loads of chances and could have won it by a lot more than 3-2."

The game turned on a series of penalty decisions by the referee, with both sides scoring after contentious awards. Lovell was unhappy with Horsham's first-half spot-kick, but admitted the late penalty his side were awarded was mystifying and that justice was done – albeit in a roundabout way.

### Wrong

"Their second goal was a very good one, but the penalty was wrong," he said. "The lad just threw himself over Laurence Harvey, who was just standing there and you could tell it wasn't a penalty just by the way he went down."

"For our one I think a fellow did take somebody out, but we had a couple of shouts that were far stronger than that earlier in the game."

Lovell feels the Nuts & Bolts are finally starting to reap the benefits of having an injury-free squad for the first time this season.

He said: "We've only got 17 or 18 players and the last two weeks is the only time we've had everyone back."

"Hopefully now we can keep everyone together, because the mood in the camp has always been good. Even when times were bad the mood was good because we knew we had to stick together."

The team emerged from the Horsham game virtually unscathed, with the only concern a minor tweak for Craig Cloke, who came off with ten minutes left, though Lovell said the change was tactical.

"I took to go three at the back and as soon as I did it we scored. Sometimes that works, sometimes it doesn't," he admitted.

## LEAGUE TABLE

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	26	18	5	3	+20	59
2 Croydon Athletic	26	16	6	4	+31	54
3 Fleet Town	27	15	3	9	+17	48
4 Godalming Town	25	15	3	7	+15	48
5 Worthing	27	15	3	9	+13	48
6 Walton & Hersham	26	13	5	8	+7	44
7 Sittingbourne	25	12	5	8	+16	41
8 Burgess Hill Town	27	11	8	8	+7	41
9 Horsham YMCA	29	9	11	9	+5	38
10 Leatherhead	25	11	4	10	+11	37
11 Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	10	9	0	37
12 Merstham	27	10	6	11	-7	36
13 Chatham Town	28	11	3	14	-11	36
14 Ramsgate	26	9	8	9	-2	35
15 Metropolitan Police	25	9	7	9	+10	34
16 Corinthian-Casuals	28	10	3	15	-11	33
17 Whyteleafe	26	9	5	12	+2	32
18 Chipstead	28	7	6	15	-14	27
19 Walton Casuals	27	6	6	15	-14	24
20 Eastbourne Town	28	4	9	15	-29	21
21 Ashford Town	25	4	8	13	-32	20
22 Whitstable Town	25	6	2	17	-34	20

**FIXTURES (Tonight):** Ryman Division One South: Ashford Town

v Metropolitan Police. (Saturday) Ryman Division One South:

Chipstead v Ashford Town



**SOUNDLY BEATEN:** Ashford were no match for Guys' but their coach was less than impressed with the referee

## Ashford fall to tough Guys'

## RUGBY

ASHFORD went down to a heavy defeat in Kent 1 on Saturday, when they were beaten 56-13 by Guys' Hospital at their Honor Oak Park ground.

Having lost the reverse fixture 22-5 at home back in November, Ashford were travelling in hope rather than expectation and they proved no match for a Guy's side who are making a charge for promotion.

Coach Dai Fussell said the scoreline was harsh and was critical of the refereeing, but also admitted some of the wounds were self-inflicted.

"The score did flatter them a little bit and I don't like to blame referees, but he was very, very poor," he said. "But a couple of our players went down because they'd been drinking

the night before the game," he added, clearly unimpressed.

Dave Connell scored Ashford's only try, with the rest of their points coming courtesy of JJ Murray's boot but Connell is a major worry for the home game against Sheppey on Saturday.

Fussell said: "His back has been playing up and he's had to have physio to get him through games, but apart from him we should all be okay."

Ashford thrashed Sheppey 46-10 at The Ditch back in September, but the resurgent Islanders have won four straight games and are now just a point behind Ashford in the table.

"They've had a few good wins," Fussell said. "They put 50-points on Erith the other week and although we put 40-points on them earlier in the season, it'll be a totally different game."

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